

A rejoinder to Hekmatyar

I was not at all surprised to read Gulbadin Hekmatyar's four column statement in *The Frontier Post* of 26th April, because today he owns more property in this province than Wali Khan, of his entire family could ever dream of owing in his mother country and, therefore his interest is diverted to the politics of this province, where he intends settling down now.

It is no longer a secret that he gave a fabulous amount of money to the Mullahs for their election campaign, but he must be disappointed, for the Jamiat-i-Islami could only bag one seat out of twenty six in the National Assembly and the JUI managed only two provincial seats in a House of eighty. But his main problem is the attitude of those forces who used him to spill the blood of his own people. Then he was called a mafakir by the Americans but now they have labelled him a heroin smuggler and a dealer in selling Jihad weapons. He tries to console himself by accusing Wali Khan of having turned round, who certainly has not.

The basic change has come from his masters, "the Americans". They are the ones who have abandoned him and his services are terminated. So the attitude of the forces in the government of Pakistan has changed. Gone are the days of Gen. Ziaul Haq when he was solely and wholly at the receiving end of all finances and weapons. It is no longer Hekmatyar who gets the credit for the fall of Khost, their new hero is Jalaluddin Haqqani.

Another terrible blow has come as a result of his opposition to the Saudi government in the Gulf crisis. So even that source has dried up. Thus, where can he look for help now. He has long ago fallen out with his own colleagues in the Interim Government. The Amer-

ican ambassador to the Interim Government has publicly declared stoppage of aid to him and the government of Pakistan has at long last decided on a political solution and thus the services of heroes of military solution are terminated. Now he can conveniently forget about the Jihad in Afghanistan and confine his activities to collecting rents from the numerous bungalows that he has bought in the University Town and drive along the road in several Pajeros, leading and following him in a more royal manner than even our poor President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Hekmatyar has chosen to ask Wali Khan several questions, but he would ask him only one question and if he is a true Muslim Pukhtoon, he will be truthful. Is it a fact that you wanted to meet Dr. Najeeb and wanted Wali Khan to use his influence and arrange such a meeting? Wali Khan suggested Iran for the meeting, which you declined, then suggested Saudi Arabia "Roza of our Prophet (PBUH), but you declined that too, and wanted to meet him in Libya. Obviously what objection could you have to meeting with the Percham faction, if you could conspire with General Tanai of the Khalq faction, which you know is deadly against the fundamentalists, while all this time you were declaring that you will have nothing to do with this *mujahid*.

As for the Scud attack on Assadabad, our hearts bleed for those killed there, and also for the people of Kashmir and also for those killed in Iraq. But since when have you become a 'momin' whose heart bleeds for the killing of Muslims. Why do you forget that this is exactly what you have been doing for the last twelve years, raining American rockets on Kabul, Qandahar, Jalalabad, Khost and every town in Afghani-

stan, killing Afghans and innocent brother Muslims including women & children.

May Wali Khan suggest, if you are really interested in liberating your mother-land, then you better sell all your property here and give the money to those living in camps under sub-human conditions and shift your headquarters to the liberated areas and concentrate on what we call the civil war in Afghanistan, which means the struggle for the throne of Kabul.

FARID TOOFAN
NWFP Minister
Irrigation, Peshawar



Afghan Commissionerate employees threaten to go on strike

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—Thousands of the Afghan Commissionerate NWFP employees started strike complete pen-down strike in NWFP against the termination of their services from the commissionerate by the present government.

President Afghan Refugees Employees Association (AREA) Fazal-ur-Rehman in a press conference announced that their pen-down strike would continue till they were reinstated by the government.

He reminded that they also ob-

served pen-down strike some times back but after the assurance by the government that so long the refugees remain in Pakistan their services would not be terminated, they called off their strike. Assurance were also given to them by Jammat-i-Islami Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad and other prominent leaders, he added.

He termed the decision of the government regarding their termination from jobs in the Holy month of Ramazan as cruel and unjust and pledged to continue their struggle till their demands were not met.

\$ 25,000 US relief for Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, March 31: The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistani Robert Oakley delivered a cheque for \$ 25,000 to support disaster relief efforts in Afghanistan.

Benan V. Sevan, personal representative of the Secretary General on Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the coordinator of United Nations Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes relating to Afghanistan received the cheque with this latest instalment in US assistance to the United Nations' disaster relief fund organised in response to the recent earthquake and heavy flooding in Afghanistan. to date, the U.S. Government has contributed over \$ 500,000 to this fund mainly in the form of commodities like tents, blankets, plastic sheeting, housing material etc.—APP

The News APR 01

NATION APR 01



Civilian population in Khost, Afghanistan, deserting the valley amid fierce fighting for the garrison.

'Afghan issue will be resolved soon'

ISLAMABAD, April 1: The Amir of Jamaat-i-Islami, Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmed, was optimistic that the Afghan issue would be resolved till the end of this year.

At a get-together with the newsmen at an Iftar hosted by him this evening, Qazi Hussain Ahmed said he had heard the news in Peshawar yesterday about the fall of Khost while he was at a meeting with the Afghan leader Engineer Gulbadin Hikmatyar. He said this was a great victory for the Mujahideen as the Khost garrison was strategically located and its fall had opened up the way for the fall of Kabul. He said the event of victory in Khost would mount extreme pressure on Kabul from all sides. Khost was a stronghold in the region which warded off the pressure on the Afghan capital.

He told a questioner that the Mujahideen had gained all their victories, through Jihad and they would achieve the final victory through Jihad alone.

About the negotiations, he said these were the part of Jihad. He said after the fall of Khost the operators of the Kabul Administration would be forced to settle issues with the Mujahideen.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed also met Prof Burhanuddin Rabani during his stay in Peshawar.

KASHMIR: Replying to a question about Kashmir, Qazi Hussain Ahmed said the Jihad in occupied Kashmir was going on very well and had further stabilised and strengthened. He said Kashmiris

had proved like the Afghans that the peoples' spirit of independence could not be suppressed through repressive measures.

Regarding the dissolution of the AJK Assembly, he said to his information the AJK Prime Minister had taken independent decision for such a measure.

He said he wished that better result should come out of this decision for the people of the region. As regards the participation of the Jamaat-i-Islami in the coming AJK elections, he said the Jamaat in Azad Kashmir was an independent body. He said they consulted matters with the Jamaat in Pakistan but their decisions were independent.

He, however, said he would establish contact with them on the developments.

About the situation in the Gulf, Qazi Hussain Ahmed said the Muslims had received setback but they had identified their enemies and could evolve future strategy in a better way.

Sen. Qazi said the people had expected that Saddam Hussain would fight against the imperialism but he failed and was now indulging in the killing of his own people.

He said the imperialist had caused a great loss and setback to the Muslims in the Middle East. He urged the monarchies, dictatorships and rulers in the region to feel the pulse of the time and ensure proper rights and freedom to their people.—APP

Afghan Cell reviews latest situation

By AROOSA ALAM

ISLAMABAD, April 3: An emergency meeting of Afghan Cell after a three months' period of hibernation met here today under the chairmanship of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. The meeting was held following the fall of Khost and liberation of territory by the Mujahideen.

It was attended by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Adm. Iftikhar Ahmed Sarohi, COAS Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg, Secretary General Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki, Secretary to President Fazlur Rehman, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, Anwar Zahid, Secretary Foreign Affairs Shahryar Khan.

The meeting reviewed all aspects of the Khost operation which led to the Mujahideen's victory after a protracted war against Najeeb regime forces.

The meeting was also informed that the Mujahideen have established a Shura and that general amnesty has been announced and steps taken by the Mujahideen to consolidate their hold. The Red Cross teams are arriving to start their relief operations.

Official sources when contacted, did not say anything except that all dimensions of the Afghan problem were reviewed and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan reiterated Pakistan's stand on the issue and said Pakistan would continue supporting political solution of the problem i.e. the establishment of a broad-based government in Kabul acceptable to the people of Afghanistan, return of Afghan refugees to their homes with honour and dignity and restoration of the non-aligned and Islamic sovereign status of Afghanistan.

MUSLIM APR 04

DAWN APR 02

US gives \$500,000 for Afghan fund

KARACHI—United States ambassador Robert Oakley on March 27 delivered a check for \$25,000 to support disaster relief efforts in Afghanistan.

The check was presented to Behan V. Sevan, Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the Coordinator of United Nations Humanitarian and Economic Assistance programmes relating to Afghanistan, says a USIS Press release.

The check proved by Ambassador Oakley to Sevan is the latest instalment in US assistance to the United Nations' disaster relief fund organised in response to the recent earthquake and heavy flooding in Afghanistan, to date the US government has contributed over \$500,000 to this fund mainly in the form of commodities (tents, blankets, plastic sheeting, housing material etc.).

The US assistance supports United Nations' programmes which provide support to Afghans who

have suffered from two recent natural disasters. The first, which occurred in late January, was an earthquake registering 6.4 on the open ended Ritcher scale centred in the Hindu Kush region of Afghanistan, close to the Pakistani border. The full extent of the damage caused by the earthquake is still being assessed.

Preliminary reports indicate that while the earthquake did not result in a major loss of lives, it did cause extensive damage to residential property and public buildings.

The second catastrophe is the major flooding that is occurring in Southern Afghanistan, thousands of mud houses have simply melted away, and whole villages have completely disappeared. Bridges and dams have been severely damaged as most major rivers have breached their banks. Unfortunately, problems caused by this rain-induced flooding will be exacerbated once the snow melt commences in April.—APP.

NATION APR 01

Afghan cell reviews Khost aftermath

First meeting in three months attended by PM, President, COAS and other officials

By Salim Bekhari

ISLAMABAD—An important meeting of the Afghan Cell, was held at the Awan-e-Sadr to discuss latest developments in Afghanistan.

This was the Cell's first meeting after the fall of Khost Garrison. It was also the first in the past three months.

The meeting reviewed latest reports about the ground situation in the wake of the capture of Khost by the Afghan mujahideen.

The participants also looked into possibilities of a political solution to the conflict, according to informed sources.

Informed sources say that the

Cell also took notice of the request made by the Afghan Interim government (AIG) for recognition.

The meeting was attended by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Chief of the Army Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg, Secretary General Ministry of Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki and Director General Inter-Services Intelligence Maj. Gen. Asad Durrani.

Later, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan hosted an iftar dinner in honour of the Ambassadors of Muslim states. The dinner was also attended by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of staff committee.

The News
APR 04

\$ 1m Japanese aid for Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (UPI)—The government of Japan has finally agreed to the immediate resumption of the Japanese development programme despite extensive material damage caused by the flooding in the southern and western provinces of Afghanistan, as well as by the severe earthquake which struck northeastern Afghanistan in early February.

Japan has decided to extend financial aid through the World Food Programme, totalling one million U.S. dollars, for procurement of wheat, pulses and edible oil for distribution to a total of 120,000 persons affected by floods and earthquake in Afghanistan.

This decision has been made from the humanitarian point of view, to help the people of Afghanistan, who have suffered greatly due to these natural disasters.

NATION APR 02

Afghan Mujahid sacrifices life

BESAWAR (UPI)—Afghan Mujahid, alias Abu Majeed of Herat, a leader of the Taliban, sacrificed his life while taking over command of battles at the village of Ghorabzai, Afghan News Agency.

He was one of approximately 40 Mujahid who were hit by Scud missiles.

The dead body was brought to Peshawar and laid to rest at the Shahzada Afghans camp graveyard here Sunday.

A large number of religious and local leaders of the party attended his funeral.

The News
APR 04

Pushing Afghan solution

FOLLOWING high-level discussions on the Afghan situation, Islamabad has reportedly opted for pursuing a political settlement. The fall of Khost to the mujahideen could have tilted opinion in favour of a military option, since there has always been a sizeable and vocal opinion of hardliners opposing any compromise solution. The Peshawar-based mujahideen groups, notwithstanding their enduring factional rivalries and inability to adopt a unified stance, have been insisting that they would rather go the whole hog to secure a military victory than agree to a power-sharing arrangement with the Kabul regime. But, since they were not able to match their words with deeds, not managing to win even a single significant battle in the post-Soviet withdrawal period, there has not of late been much enthusiasm for a military solution. The Jalalabad debacle was perhaps the turning point when the hawks predicting a swift collapse of the Kabul regime following the Soviet pull-out were proven wrong and the doves were able to sell negotiated settlement as the only viable option. The Khost victory has indeed been a major success for the mujahideen and should be a morale-booster for their strife-ridden ranks. It should also help them to rejuvenate world interest in their almost forgotten cause. And if they are able to sustain their control over the strategic town, they would have substantially enhanced their bargaining power in any future negotiations. Nevertheless, winning one battle should not lead to any miscalculations about the war front and, there is all the more reason to guard against getting wrong signals.

The high-powered Afghan cell by deciding to step up diplomatic efforts for the setting up of a broad-based government in Kabul has taken the right course. It is not only consistent with Islamabad's post-Geneva Accords official stance, but also an imperative of the emerging global scenario. Notwithstanding the need for a just and equitable settlement which is acceptable to all the parties concerned, Pakistan cannot afford to have a perennial source of conflict along its frontiers. To secure peace in the region is a dictate of Pakistan's national interest and calls for renewed and more vigorous efforts to seek a political solution to the Afghan problem. In the wake of superpower's detente and the declining US interest in the Afghan resistance, Islamabad has been much lagging behind in taking the sort of initiatives needed to break the stalemate. If it has now come alive to the problem, it should be willing to make a meaningful effort and not take it up as one of the Foreign Office's routine diplomatic drills. To begin with, let the country have a full-time Foreign Minister as the peace process calls for a political direction and its success largely depends on reviewing some of the major policy perceptions of the past.

NATION APR 06

Khost victory to encourage Afghan struggle

PPI

RAWALPINDI—The Defence Minister of the Islamic interim government of Afghanistan, Maulvi Mohammad Nabi, has said the recent victory of the Afghan mujahideen in Khost would encourage them and expressed hope that it would bring the mujahideen closer to complete victory in Afghanistan in near future.

He said the fall of Khost is a gift by the Afghan mujahideen to the Muslims and added that they would hear good news very soon.

Maulvi Mohammad Nabi said a large number of weapons have been seized by the mujahideen after the victory, including tanks,

Kalashnikovs, anti-aircraft guns, heavy machine guns, automobiles and a large number of wireless sets.

To a question about their next attack the minister said, like the joint offensive against the Kabul military forces in Khost the mujahideen will begin a new big and dramatic offensive on the communist military bases in Bardez and Kabul.

He expressed optimism that the joint attack of mujahideen on Kabul would eliminate the remnants of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic from the homelands of Afghanistan and it would be the last nail in the coffin of the communist régime.

The News
APR 06

Afghan jihad not between ethnic groups

ISLAMABAD (APP)—The Afghan jihad is between the Islamic forces and anti-Islamic forces and not between some ethnic groups, Qazi Hussain Ahmadi, Amir Jamaat-i-Islami said here this evening.

Talking to newsmen at an Iftar party he hosted in honour of ambassadors of Islamic countries at a local hotel, the Amir of the Jamaat said the Afghan jihad is for the glory of Islam and the Muslims should support it. He urged the Muslims to get together and unite against those forces that were trying to weaken their position in the world.

Reacting to the statements of Mahmud Achakzai and Ajmal Khattak who had taken exception to his recent visit to Khost, Qazi Hussain Ahmad said the two leaders were absconding for years in Kabul and went there without a valid visa and passport. He said that on the occasion of the burial of the late Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan in Kabul, 10,000 Awami National Party workers had gone to Kabul without a valid passport and visa for his funeral.

They even did not bury him in Pakistan, he added. He decried the remarks of the Awami National Party leaders that they do not recognise the frontiers between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

He said that it does not behove these leaders to talk about his visit to Khost who themselves had travelled without a visa or passport to Kabul several times.

The News
APR 08

Iran against foreign intervention in Afghanistan

Tehran supports self determination for Muslims everywhere

By Sallim Bohkar

ISLAMABAD—The Islamic Republic of Iran has categorically stated that it was against its principles and policies to respond to a letter written to President Hashemi Rafsanjani by Afghan President Dr Najibullah.

In an exclusive interview with The News here on Friday, Iranian Ambassador Javad Mansouri said Tehran believed that foreign intervention would just add to the complexity of the Afghan problem.

The News APR 06

Iran against foreign intervention in Afghanistan

Continued from page

post-war Persian Gulf security arrangements, Mr Mansouri said: "Naturally the interests of all countries in any given region are better secured if close cooperation, mutual respect and honouring the right of each other on the basis of peaceful coexistence are established among them." He said there was no doubt that imposed arrangements that were not in conformity with ground realities of the region, could not maintain collective security in the long run.

The Ambassador said the Iranian leadership, in its effort during the previous year, established effective security arrangements in the Persian Gulf region and invited the littoral states to take their own shares on the basis of sincere cooperation. This alone would ensure goodwill, peaceful coexistence, and sovereignty of all regional states.

Elaborating further, Mr Mansouri said necessary provisions had been mentioned the United Nations resolution No 598 for establishment of regional security. He said with the participation of littoral states of the Persian Gulf region and under the supervision of United Nations Secretary General these provisions had gradually received the support of

Therefore, it was upto the Afghan Mujahideen, refugees and people of Afghanistan to decide their own destiny in a manner of their own choosing. He said responding to Najib's appeal to Iran and Turkey was beyond their principles and policies.

Mr Mansouri said Iran and Pakistan have been discussing the Afghan question from time to time and rejected any foreign intervention in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

Iran hopes that Afghanistan,

Palestine and other Islamic nations will achieve sovereignty and the Muslim people would play a direct role in exercising their right of self determination. He said it was a strong desire of the Iranian leadership that the Kashmir problem be settled in a manner that the interests and aspirations of the Muslim population were secured and maintained.

Asked to comment on what future role Tehran could play in the

Continued on Page

Contact with USSR on Afghan problem

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD, April 8: A Foreign Office spokesman on Monday confirmed reports that Pakistan was in touch with the Soviet Union in its attempt to seek a political solution to the Afghanistan problem.

Talking to newsmen at the Foreign Office, the spokesman said the country was embarking on a new initiative and was in the process of contacting relevant countries including the Soviet Union, Iran, Saudi Arabia and China in addition to the United Nations.

All these contacts, he said, were aimed at finding a consensus political solution to the Afghanistan problem which could enable the Afghan people to run their affairs in a democratic process.

MUSLM APR 09

Commander lauds Pak role in Afghan jihad

F.P. Report

BANNU — Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) arranged a reception in honour of Mohammad Yaqoob Sharaiyat, the military spokesman of Jalaluddin Haqqani, as a mark of celebration of the conquest of Khost.

Mohammad Akram Khan Bafail MPA, ulema and other JUI leaders attended the function which was addressed amongst others by Qari Mohammad Abdulrah, the deputy secretary-general of NWFP JUI.

While addressing the reception Sharaiyat thanked JUI for its full support to the noble cause of the mujahideen. He said that due to the help provided by the Pakistani people we were able to fight for the cause of Islam.

NAWAZ'S VISIT: It was recently learnt that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif would pay a brief visit to Bannu on Saturday the April 27 and would address a public meeting in the ground situated at the backside of Regal Cinema.

It was the long-standing demand of the people of Bannu to listen to Nawaz Sharif. It is expected that the premier would announce a number of developmental projects for Bannu including raising it to divisional status as they are impatiently waiting for to see this announcement come true.

DIVISIONAL STATUS: Different political, religious and social circles have demanded of the government to give divisional headquarter status to Bannu district because it deserves. They said that the population of Bannu is more than ten lakh. They said that Bannu should be given the status of divisional headquarter and Laki Marwah should be given the status of district. They said that Bannu has been ignored in the past in respect of divisional status and it should not be ignored further.

EXAM PATTERN CHANGED: According to the notification of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education; the board has decided to bifurcate the secondary school certificate examination into two parts — part I (9th class) and part II (10th class) with effect from the annual examination 1992.

The notification says that further details regarding the bifurcation of syllabus would be notified in the due course. The students passing middle standard examination and getting admission in the 9th class this year will appear in the secondary school certificate part I (9th class) annual examination of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Bannu in 1992.

Thaw in Afghanistan?

THE Soviet Union is reported to have agreed to initiate "substantive talks" with Pakistan for finding a political solution to the Afghanistan problem. According to sources, such a dialogue has become more imperative because of the fall of Khost, an important garrison, to the Mujahideen. Moscow's most recent attitude cannot be anything but welcome. Whatever the situation on the ground, sources added, the basic position of Pakistan had not changed which had always advocated a peaceful settlement. Pakistan has also decided to approach the United Nations Secretary General to take immediate action leading to a political solution of the Afghan problem. The one major factor in prevention of any peaceful solution to the Afghan imbroglio has been the presence of Dr Najibullah. The bottom line, therefore, is the immediate removal of the gentleman so that negotiations can begin for the establishment of a broadbased government, even if interim in nature, in Afghanistan which can then work towards the early holding of elections leading to the formation of a stable government.

Now is the time for the proposed talks not to be "substantive" but positive. By agreeing to the removal of Dr Najibullah, the Soviet Union can do immeasurable good towards establishment of peace not only in Afghanistan, but in the entire region. Through such action, the Soviet Union stands to gain everything. For one thing, it cannot afford to have Afghanistan, its own tinderbox in a state of permanent ferment. For another, it has to realise that the events in Afghanistan have over the years, had their effects in the Muslim Republics within its own borders. This fallout is one of the major headaches for Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. It has added to the state of uncertainty in the Soviet Union and no imminent improvement in the situation can be foreseen. It is for the Soviet Union to say why and how Dr Najibullah's presence on the Afghanistan scene is beneficial to it, but to any impartial observer it is glaringly obvious that keeping him in the saddle regardless, is doing irreparable harm and will continue to do so. Whichever form of government comes to the fore after Najib's ouster, is entirely the concern of the Afghan people. For their part the superpowers would be well advised to foster a political solution of the Afghan issue rather than use the present disunity to further their own ends.

MUSLIM APR 08

FRONTIER POST APR 20

Sevan asks Afghans to hold talks with Kabul govt

APRIL 13: BBC has reported that envoy of the UN Secretary General Benoît Sevan has asked all the Afghans to hold talks with the Kabul regime.

The radio added that Pakistan has also recently said that the Afghan problem should be resolved through dialogue among the concerned sides to the conflict. But his proposal has met a cold response from the Afghan authorities. Some diplomatic sources in Kabul say that it is possible that Pakistan might have become serious for a political settlement of the Afghan issue through negotiations.

On the other hand former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto has said that Pakistan government wanted to settle the Afghan problem through political means. And to achieve this goal Pakistan had agreed to a few proposals of the Afghan interim government. She said she is of the view that all the concerned parties to the Afghan issue, like Pakistan, Kabul regime, Iran, Afghans,

MONITORING REPORT

AIG, Saudi Arabia, the United States and the Soviet Union should work jointly to find out a solution as a result of which a representative government could be formed. Ms. Bhutto added that now the time has come for all to get together and find a solution to the Afghan conflict. She said arrangements should be made so that the people of Afghanistan can form a government of their own choice.

A delegation of the Afghan government has gone to Switzerland for informal talks with the Swiss officials. The delegation is headed by President Najibullah's Senior Assistant, General Ashfaqur Rehman.

The delegation has undertaken this visit at a time when there are reports that Switzerland is making efforts to arrange a meeting of all the factions in Afghanistan next week.

BBC correspondent reports

from Geneva that it will be premature to say anything about the formal peace talks under the auspices of the Swiss government. But since the visit of President Najibullah to Switzerland in November last year there have been several secret meetings and that it is quite obvious that there has been some progress in these meetings.

Meanwhile Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh has sent a letter to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar about the on-going confrontation and increase in military activities in Afghanistan.

The letter says there is a need to make all Sul efforts for resolving the Afghanistan issue during the current year. Besides Bessmertnykh has written that it is imperative to implement the Geneva accords on Afghanistan issue. The Soviet Foreign Minister described the UN role as very important in finding out ways to put an end to the confrontation in Afghanistan.

Omar Asghar to end to hostilities in Afghanistan

ABOTTABAD, April 8: Omar Asghar Khan, Chairman, Islamic Youth League and member National Working Committee, Tehrik-i-Istiqbal has called upon the government to play an effective role in bringing about an end to hostilities in Afghanistan so that the Afghan refugees in Pakistan can return to their homeland in the near future. He said that with the reduction in assistance for the Afghan refugees from the United States and other Western countries, the situation is deteriorating after the recent developments. He also commended the government of Pakistan. He said that given the unsatisfactory conditions of Pakistan's own finances as a result of reduction in aid inflows, Pakistan can ill afford to look after millions of refugees presently living in various camps in Pakistan.

Omar Asghar Khan said if in Pakistan's national interest that peace is established in Afghanistan and for this purpose the government should not hesitate to establish contact with the government in Afghanistan, the Soviet Union, Iran, the United States, Afghan Mujahideen groups and prominent Afghanistan nationals including King Zahir Shah.

He further said that since Pakistan is a signatory to the Geneva accords, the government should take steps to create a climate for an end to hostilities in Afghanistan as well as establishing brotherly relations with that neighboring country. He further said that both Pakistan and Afghanistan could benefit great deal if normal relations were established between the two countries. —PR

MUSLIM APR 14

Floods damage Afghan DPs camp

ISLAMABAD, April 10: The recent rainfall and floods caused great damage to the mud houses of Afghan refugees Azakhil camp. About 1500 houses, some tubewells, mosques and educational institutions were damaged or completely demolished.

According to media reports, heavy floods struck the camp on Tuesday, causing panic in the camp of about 3000 families. Nearly 1500 mud houses, five mosques, including a Jamia Masjid, 400 tubewells, two schools, an Islamic institution and a clinic were damaged or demolished during rainfall.

According to reports the local refugees have urged different organisations and Mujahideen's parties to take measures to assist the affected refugees. —PPI

DAWN APR 11

MUSLIM APR 09

Pak-Soviet talks on Afghanistan next month

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR—In order to find a peaceful and political settlement to the long-awaited Afghan problem, a high level Soviet delegation will visit Pakistan next month, it was learnt reliably.

The source told *The Nation* on Friday the Soviet delegation will hold talks with both high Pakistani authorities and Mujahideen leaders. The source further said the Soviet officials will also persuade the Mujahideen leaders to set up an interim Government with a view to bringing ceasefire to ongoing bloodshed among Afghans and re-

turn of five million refugees to their homeland.

The Soviet officials will also review peace proposals of United Nations Secretary-General and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Soviet leaders initiated the move with a view to preventing Mujahideen from further attacks on other cities of Afghanistan after capturing Khost.

Before arrival in Pakistan, the Soviet leaders will take Afghan President, Dr Najibullah into confidence for signing any agreement with Afghan Mujahideen.

Afghan talks

UNITED NATIONS, April 10: A UN envoy has begun shuttle diplomacy between Afghanistan leader Najibullah and Afghan Mujahideen leaders in Pakistan, UN spokesman Francois Giuliani said on Tuesday.

Bonin Sevan, the personal representative of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, met Pakistani Foreign Secretary Akram Zaki and Afghan Mujahideen Leaders in Islamabad before leaving for Kabul, Mr Giuliani said.

Mr Seban's shuttle diplomacy came at the behest of Mr Perez de Cuellar who wanted to launch an intensive effort to find a political solution to the 12-year-old Afghan conflict, the UN spokesman said.

Mr Seban was expected to return to Islamabad soon to meet again Pakistani officials and members of the Afghan Resistance, which has been fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government since 1979. —AFP.

DAWN APR 11

Four Afghans shot dead

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—Four Afghans were killed while another sustained injuries when unknown armed men opened fire on their vehicle in the outskirts of Peshawar Sunday.

Reports say that four Afghan mujahideen including a brother of commander Deedar Mirzai Alam who were on their way to Peshawar city in their vehicle were ambushed by unknown assailants near Baghban in the outskirts of Peshawar. The injured was admitted to the Shamsia Refugee Hospital.

The assassination was reported to be a part of old family feud.

The News

APR 16

Partial amnesty for Afghans

MONITORING REPORT

APRIL 15: By issuing a decree, Afghan President Najibullah has allowed the following categories of people to return home reports Kabul Radio:

— Those intellectuals, scientists, technicians and students, including men, women and youth, who left the country and who possessed valid Afghan passports can return to the country.

— Those people from the above mentioned categories who have not any passport can return to the country for visiting their relatives and friends after getting valid Afghan passports from the Afghan diplomatic missions abroad.

— Those countrymen who come under the condition of essential military service are given six months' concession.

— Those students who have left the country during study period can re-join their educational institutions.

— The Afghan diplomatic missions abroad have been asked to provide passport facilities to the above mentioned categories of countrymen who want to return to the country.

Such returnees can get benefits as announced by the Afghan Government.

Over 160 Afghans killed in recent floods

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR—Over 160 Afghan villagers were killed and about 3,000 injured in the recent floods and a series of devastating earthquakes which struck various regions of Afghanistan recently, according to reports reaching here from across the border.

A large number of mud houses have been razed to the ground, in eastern and northern Afghanistan by severe jolts of earthquake.

The most critically hit provinces included Baghlan, Balkh, Kunduz

FRONTIER POST
APR 15

Achakzai criticises Afghan policy

From Our Correspondent

QUETTA, April 21: Mahmood Khan Achakzai, MNA and chief of Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party, has expressed apprehensions about Afghan dissidents preparing to mount an attack on Kandhar "with active support of Pakistan" and said the move was a part of a conspiracy by what he called "Punjabi colonialists" to frustrate the desire of Pashtoons to get united.

He was addressing a public meeting at Pishin about 48 km from Quetta amidst tight security measures taken by the local administration on Friday. The meeting was also addressed, among others, by Senator Abdur Rahim Mandokhel and MPA Doctor Kalimullah.

The Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party chief was bitter about the policies of Pakistan Government towards the Afghan problem and said Islamabad should desist from interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. He called upon the people of Afghanistan to foil "the

conspiracy of anti-Afghan agents" and not allow them to succeed in their mission.

Mr Mahmood Khan Achakzai while touching upon the plight of Pashtoons in Pakistan, demanded that it was the desire of Pashtoons from Bolan to Chitral to be given equal status like Punjabis, Sindhis, and Baloch as separate nationality.

PMAP chief accused state machinery of involving his party in tribal feuds and declared that Pashtoons would not allow themselves to be divided on tribal basis. He denied that his party in any way was encouraging Kalashnikov culture and said they in fact had been forced to keep arms in self-defence.

Mr Mahmood Khan Achakzai strongly opposed the recently concluded Indus Water Apportionment accord and said the agreement was detrimental to the socio-economic interests of the NWFP. He said the accord would further add to the miseries of the Pashtoons in the Frontier province.

DAWN APR 22

Road mishap claims 5 lives

PISHIN—Five persons were reported killed when a tractor-trolley fell into a ravine in bordering Township Badani on Friday, official sources told APP.

The victims, all Afghan refugees, were returning to Afghanistan from Badin, a small town some 90 kilometres from here, sources said.

The trolley parted from the tractor while negotiating a curve and fell into ravine killing all the 5 men on the spot.—APP.

NATION APR 21

2 Afghans killed

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—Two Afghan refugees were shot dead in two separate incidents in Swabi and Miramshah.

An Afghan refugee Ghulam on his way to Topi from the Gaddum-Amaizi Industrial estate in Swabi district was shot dead and deprived of his pick-up (PRM 8738) by unidentified armed men.

In the second incident, an Afghan refugee travelling to Miramshah in North Waziristan agency was showered with bullets by some gunmen. He died on the spot.

The News

APR 21

Saudis back political solution to Afghan conflict

By Anwar Iqbal

ISLAMABAD—Saudi Arabia favours a political solution to the Afghan issue said Pir Syed Ahmad Gilani of the National Islamic Alliance of Afghanistan (NIFA) while talking to The News here Saturday.

The Afghan leader, who returned from Saudi Arabia earlier this week, said he also met with King Fahd during his stay and felt that the Saudi monarch also favoured a political solution in Afghanistan.

Gilani's NIFA opposes a military settlement in Afghanistan that parties like Hezbe Islami of Gul-

Continued on Page back

The News
APR 21

BRIEFS

Soviet Union accuses Pakistan

MONITORING REPORT
APRIL 14: The Soviet Union has blamed Pakistan for further assistance to the Afghan rebels, radio Moscow reported. A statement from the Soviet Foreign Ministry says the rebels' seizure of Khost aided by Pakistan indicate a total escalation of the Afghan war.

The Soviet Union called on all sides involved with the Afghan conflict to regain the spirit of constructive cooperation, which has resulted in Geneva Peace Agreement.

25 more families return

APRIL 14: Another Twenty-five families of our compatriots, consisting of 185 people have returned to Kunar province from Pakistani recently, radio Kabul reported.

The defence section of Bakhtar news agency reported that these people were sent to their native villages after being provided with necessary state assistance.

MUSLIM APR 15

Khost fall a major victory for Mujahideen: US

WASHINGTON-The United States on Monday hailed the liberation of Khost as a 'major victory' for Afghan Mujahideen predicted new attacks throughout the country by the end of this month, reports APP's special correspondent.

"This is definitely a major victory for the Mujahideen," he added.

The administration used the victory to warn Kabul ruler Najibullah that if he did not give up control of Afghanistan, the *Mujahideen* would redouble their military efforts.

Robert Kimmitt, Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, said in a televised United States Information Agency broadcast that the fall of Khost proves "that the time has come to move beyond the current phase to get to a point where there can be a legitimate act of self-determination of the Afghan people themselves."

American officials reported that five Afghan tribal groups displayed impressive coordination in the attack, and effectively deployed tanks, armoured personnel carriers and mortars they had captured from the Kabul regime forces in the last two years. Among the 6,000 troops they captured were 600 members of the Revolutionary Guard, Na-

jibullah's elite unit.

The successful assault on Sunday in the face of heavy artillery and Scud missile attacks capped years of effort to take the town, lending the *Mujahideen* a major psychological gain. Three years ago, the Kabul regime took Western reporters to Khost to show off the strength of Soviet-Afghan joint operations.

The *Mujahideen* now control 80 per cent of the countryside, 200 district capitals and six provincial capitals, American officials said. The taking of Khost, which guards the vital supply routes connecting Kabul with southwestern provinces, is the first *Mujahideen* victory since the capture of the provincial capital of Tarin Kot last October.

Administration officials said the Soviet Union had made a major effort to avert the defeat in Khost, deploying advisers to fire 40 Scud missiles with 2,000-pound warheads at the attacking *Mujahideen* during the last two weeks.

A State Department official said "if the Soviets see they are throwing good money after bad, we hope the Soviets will come to see that a political settlement is necessary". APP.

NATION APR 3



An Afghan Mujahid firing a long-range rocket during an attack on Afghan Forces in Khost.

Saudis back political solution of Afghan conflict

Continued from Page 1

badam Hekmatyar favour.

Those for a military settlement want to continue war in Afghanistan till the final victory of Mujahideen over the Kabul regime.

NIFA, however, says that a military solution will cause "more Afghan blood to spill," as Gilani said. Already more than a million Afghans have died in the war that began in 1979 after the Soviet invasion of Kabul. Though the Soviets withdrew their forces in 1989, the war continued. During the last two years it did not remain confined to Mujahideen versus the Kabul troops. Many Mujahideen were also killed in fighting within the resistance.

However, NIFA is seen as a monarchist party advocating the

return of the former king Zahir Shah to Kabul. NIFA and its supporters believe that only Zahir Shah could bring peace to this war ravaged country.

Asked about the pro-monarchy stance of NIFA, Gilani said: "We are pro-peace and will do anything that brings peace to our country."

He said NIFA was the first Afghan party to talk of a political solution and now others were also doing that.

He hoped that Pakistan would also realise the importance of peace in Afghanistan and would take the steps that help a political settlement.

Asked whether the Americans also supported a political solution, Gilani said: "I don't know but hope so."

MUSLIM APR 24

Décries role in Gulf war

No aid for 'anti-US' Afghan groups: Tomson

APRIL 23: Peter Tomson, the U.N. Special Envoy for Afghan refugees, has said that the US was annoyed with Afghan leaders such as Sayyaf, Hekmatyar and Rabbani for supporting Iraq in the Gulf war. He said this was the reason that the U.S. has stopped assistance to these groups.

Mr. Tomson posed a question to the BBC correspondent, Mr. Mohammad Hassan Weswal whether the Afghans were traditionally disloyal and did not even hesitate to stab a person in the back who had supported them.

Weswal in response said we are happy that the US has arrived at this conclusion after 12 years. We hope that US would keep this in mind and divert its assistance to those who are supported by majority of the Afghan people. We have no such example in our history to annoy our friends.

Peter Tomson said, We would never enter Afghan politics or decide that who received what; we want to provide assistance to the Afghan resistance and we will continue our assistance. However, those who have betrayed us would never receive our assistance.

Q. ULESWAL: Would you like

to say something about the idea that the US should directly or indirectly prepare ground for a meeting of about two hundred educated Afghans in a neutral country and meet expenses of the meeting?

A. PETER TOMSON: Our stand is that we support the process of right of self-determination. We are facing a problem due to lack of a source for the maintenance of law and order in Afghanistan. Kabul regime is in power with the Soviet backing. The Afghan Interim Government has failed to win support of the Afghan people due to disunity of the Mujahideen. Therefore, a process is needed wherein the Afghan people could decide their future by themselves. If the US or any other country, including the UN interfere in this process then the Afghan people would feel that the process of right of self-determination has come under alien influence. The Afghan people should themselves come forward and we would support them. Some people say that the US had a hand in the formation of the Shura of Mujahideen commanders but we have not given them any assistance. Similarly, another process is needed in the political field which could

in turn result in the convening of the Loya Jirga. The Loya Jirga should elect a leader of the Afghan people, that would be legitimate and acceptable to all the Afghan people.

Q. ULESWAL: What do you say about the former Afghan monarch, Zahir Shah? People say that the US is not supporting him although majority of the Afghan people support him.

A. PETER TOMSON: We believe that Zahir Shah is part of Afghan resistance. He is opposed to the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan as well as the Soviet puppet Kabul regime which he does not consider a legitimate government. He is playing an important role for the unity of Afghan people and seeking a political solution to the Afghan problem. However, the US does not want to select anyone as a leader of the Afghan people. We would support any person elected by the Afghan people. If we support Zahir Shah, or anyone else in this regard then it would annoy the Afghan people. We would support anyone except what he called the terrorist groups of Sayyaf, Hekmatyar and Rabbani. We ask the Afghan people to unite and launch joint efforts for resolving their problems.

Time to untie Afghan knot

There have been some significant developments at the Afghan Front during the last one month or so, reviving hopes of prospects of 'another go' at the issue to break its stalemate.

As a matter of fact never before the ground situation has been more conducive to a political settlement in Afghanistan than it is now. The foreign factors, hitherto deeply involved in the Afghan imbroglio, have due to changing strategic situation and their own political compulsions, distanced themselves from the issue.

With the Soviets being cut to size by their own internal problems, the Americans would no longer want to waste their energies and resources to bleed the Soviets to death in Afghanistan. They would like to at their 'mighty dollar' to a lesser use somewhere else. But still they would insist on putting their stamp of approval to any Afghan settlement in the light of ush's new world order.

Similarly, the Saudis have now too many problems at hand in the Gulf. Like the Americans they no longer have surplus Ry's for the Mujahideen, most of whom to their dismay and disappointment, supported Saddam Hussein in the Gulf War. It could surprise nobody if they abandon the plan for a sphere of influence in Afghanistan, particularly so when they are moving towards rapprochement with an.

This should give more freedom to the direct and genuine parties involved in the conflict to plan their peace moves and enter into meaningful talks. How these parties use their newly achieved greater manoeuvrability will have a decisive bearing on the outcome

of the on-going peace moves.

A Soviet team will shortly be visiting Islamabad for talks on the Afghan issue. The Foreign Office here is looking forward to this contact with hopes and expectations. There is no word yet as to the composition of the coming Soviet team. There should, however, be no doubt that regardless of the composition of Soviet team, its visit to Islamabad will be no less important than that of Shevardnadze's brief sojourn here in 1986. Islamabad was then too deeply committed to the military solution of the Afghan issue. But things are now somewhat

Pakistan is Gorbachev's proposal of a conference participated by US, Soviet Union, China, Japan and India to sort out the Asian affairs. The idea of demilitarising Asia in itself is good, but Pakistan could hardly be comfortable with any proposal that provides a say to India but leave Islamabad in a lurch. Pakistan must look far beyond than it is doing at the moment. An open and extrovert approach towards the Soviet Union would serve Islamabad's interest well.

Nawaz Sharif government's decision to accord recognition to degree from Communist countries' universities, though apparently an insignificant move, can go a long way in putting Pak-Soviet relations to their true perspective. Significantly the move has come from a government which was considered conservative in style and character with an anti-Soviet stance. The Soviets have viewed this decision as a positive development.

Mikhail Gorbachev's act to engage in talks with the Japanese leaders during his recent visit to Tokyo on the four disputed islands — whom the Kremlin think of vital strategic importance to it — shows Soviet leaders' willingness to tackle thorny issues, notwithstanding its fragile position at home. This gives a hope that the Soviet Union would move half way to meet any peace proposal coming from Islamabad or the Mujahideen.

The Mujahideen's victory in Khost could prove a watershed in efforts to seek solution of the Afghan crisis. The real significance of Khost victory lies in the fact that it was in the Khost triumph that the Mujahideen were finally able to bury the

painful Jalalabad syndrome. The Soviets and their protege Najib were both awakened with a shock that here was a problem that needs to be resolved.

Islamabad acted sensibly by not being carried away by the Mujahideen victory. It eagerly grasped Soviet initiative for a dialogue on the issue. Any illusion of military solution could be dangerous and fatalist. The brutal Scud attack by Najib forces on Kunar, leaving over 500 dead, is a clear reminder that the Afghan fighting could be bloodiest.

It is not as yet clear whether the Soviet Union is now ready to abandon Najib and go for an acceptable and viable solution of the Afghan issue. Islamabad is no longer putting up favourites. Gulbadin Hekmatyar who was once the most sought after Afghan leader in Islamabad, has ceased to be the 'blue eyed' boy of the establishment.

The US has cleverly concealed its move, letting nobody know what it actually wants in Afghanistan. Peter Tomson, UN Special Envoy for Afghan Refugees, in significant remarks to a BBC correspondent, while severely condemning Hekmatyar and co., included King Zahir Shah as part of Afghan Resistance. Does this mean that King Zahir's return to Kabul forms part of Bush's new world order? The Soviet Union nor India would mind it.

Islamabad would have to be beware... against such manoeuvres. Only a solution reached through negotiations between Islamabad, Tehran and Moscow would be to the mutual benefit of Kabul's neighbours than the one hampered out under the guidance of Washington.

SPECTRUM

By KHALID AHMAD

different.

With their relationship marred by mutual distrust Pakistan and Soviet Union have remained apprehensive of each other's move on the Afghan front. The Kremlin took a serious note of famous Afghan Commander Ahmad Shah Masud's visit to Islamabad and his talks here with Pakistani leaders last year. An Islamabad-based senior Soviet diplomat interpreted this as "Pakistan's persistence with its policy of going for the military solution of the issue."

Since the Mujahideen victory in Khost the Soviet Union has repeated its charge of Pakistan's interference in Afghan affairs and in its Muslim-dominated republics of Central Asia with greater intensity. Islamabad on its part has remained bitter on Kremlin's continued military support to the Najib regime. Equally worrisome for

The News

APR 26

USSR wants Afghan settlement, says Yakunin

By Farhan Bokhari

ISLAMABAD—The Soviet ambassador to Islamabad, Victor Yakunin said on Monday that the Soviet Union favours a political solution in Afghanistan, involving all parties to the conflict. Talking to reporters at a hotel in Rawalpindi, Mr Yakunin said that a final settlement can only be reached by Afghans themselves, as against being imposed by external parties. In response to a question on Soviet arms supply to Kabul, he conceded that Moscow was supplying arms but added that at the same time, the United States, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan were giving arms to the mujahideen.

In response to another question on the Soviet position on

President Najibullah's role in a future set-up, Mr Yakunin said that the Afghan government and its President are as important an element as any other party.

"We are of the opinion that the republic of Afghanistan and its President Najibullah are as important a component of the process of political settlement as any other segment of Afghan polity. Political solution can only be reached with the participation of all the representatives of Afghan warring parties, without any exclusion," he said.

In response to a question on the possible course of events after the Mujahideen victory over Khost, last month, Mr Yakunin said, "The position of my country

is that this argument should be solved, not at the battlefield but at the negotiation table, not by the force of arms but by the force of political arguments."

When asked specifically if Moscow was supplying arms to the Afghan regime in Kabul, he replied, "Yes, in the same way as Saudi Arabia, Americans and Pakistanis are supplying arms too." Mr Yakunin said that the Soviet Union would be prepared to comply with a negative symmetry to stop arms supplies to Kabul, provided other parties to the conflict act similarly.

The News

APR 29

2,000 schools destroyed during Afghan war: report

LONDON (UPI)—As many as 2,000 schools have been destroyed in the war that has ravaged Afghanistan in the past 10 years and as many teachers have either been killed in the conflict or have left the country.

The desperate need for reconstruction of the education system is made all the more acute by the flux of Afghan refugees now returning home.

Village basic education centres are one idea being developed by UNESCO to attack the problem. The aim is to provide a low-cost, flexible and multi-purpose centre that can be tailored to the particular needs of villages.

Such a centre would consist of three classrooms for children, a multi-purpose reading room, where literacy can be taught to adults and young people, two or three workshops for skills training for men and women, a day care centre, a teacher's house, a well and toilets, areas for poultry raising and vegetable gardens and space for leisure activities.

However, the key to the success of any such project is the commitment of the concerned community. Thus, local leaders and representatives are involved from the start.

In cases, where no facilities whatsoever exist, a provisional centre can be set up in a large tent. Architects and education specialists of UNESCO on the spot have designed mobile room dividers and desks that can double up as chairs and blackboards, to furnish these classrooms and get ac-

tivities underway quickly.

If the villagers give their support to the idea, construction of a more permanent centre begins, says a UNESCO report, inaccessible items such as roofs, doors, windows, furniture and educational supplies are provided through outside assistance, while the community is expected to make its contribution in labour, allocation of the site and the construction of the foundations and walls.

Construction of the first two centres, at Shash Qala and Guli Khel in the Wardak province, was completed last November. Another six centres are being established, initially with tents, in south-eastern Afghanistan.

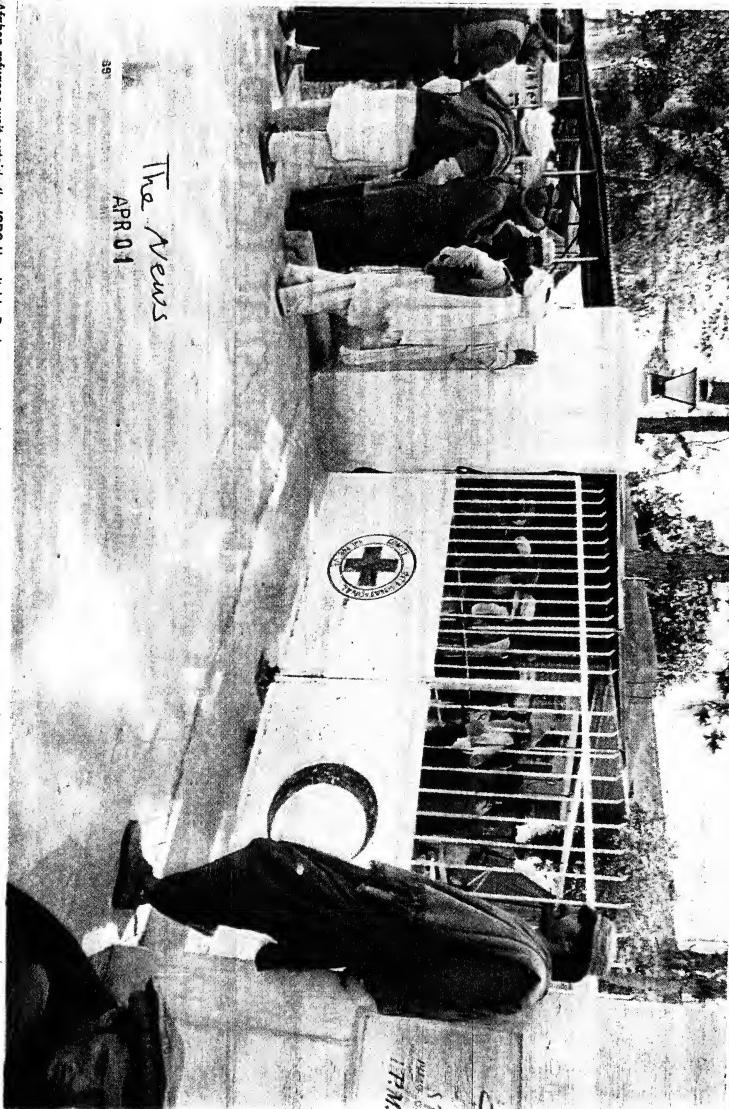
The operation is being executed by UNESCO and funded by the United Nations Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes relating to Afghanistan (UNOCA), with a start up budget of one million dollars.

FRONTIER POST APR 29

Afghan refugees wait outside the ICRC hospital in Peshawar to enquire about their relations wounded in the ongoing battle for Khost. This hospital has admitted a large number of injured mujahideen.—Photo by Farid Shah

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Meeting deplores retrenchment of Afghan refugees employees

F.P. Report

BUNER—According to a press release of the Afghan refugees employees Koga camp a meeting of their union was held wherein it expressed resentment over the covert designs of the government regarding further retrenchment in their staff against her commitments.

They accused the government of playing in the hands of bureaucracy and warned of serious results if the government did not give up her plans.

The meeting deplored the government's action contrary to her tall claims of ending unemployment and added, it was bent upon rendering a large number of employees jobless.

OFFICE-BEARERS: Consequent upon the conducting of the general elections of the Paramedical Association Buner district which were held here in March at Civil Hospital Daggar, the following cabinet members besides members of the executive body were elected: cabinet; Shamsul Haq, president; Fazl Azim, vice-president; Siraj, general secretary; Sardar Suran Singh, joint secretary; Ali Gohar Shah, propaganda secretary; Shamsul Wahab, financial secretary.

The executive body included Abdul Shakoor as chairman,

Zamir Razid, Bakhti Gul, Ahmad Khan and Fazl Rehman as its members.

INQUIRY INTO HIJACKING:

Abdul Qayum Khan, advocate, district organiser, PPP for Buner has rediculed the formation of a ministerial committee for enquiry into the tragic hijacking of the Singapore Airlines and said the said committee was not in accordance with the legal requirements as the alleged culprits were killed just before obtaining correct information about the incident.

Deploring the role of media in this regard, he said that instead paying heed to the demand of the opposition leader, Benazir Bhutto for impartial commission acceptable to both the government and opposition, it started vilification campaign against the leaders of the opposition.

He said a shameful hue was fai sed in order to malign the leadership of the PPP and achieve their nefarious objectives.

RETAILERS: Upward trend of the prices of essential goods in the market have become operative with the arrival of the holy month of Ramazan-ul-Mubarak in Buner district and various sections of the society here have expressed astonishment over the meaningful silence of the local administration towards the matter.

The indifference of the administration in this regard has caused the poor people to suffer at the hands of the retailers.

Custodiers have become severely annoyed with the situation and have drawn the attention of the local authorities to ensure checks on the prices in the market and protect the people from the high-handedness of the shopkeepers.

DISMISSELS: Shet Khan, chairman Ushr and Zakat Committee of Buner district, has dismissed Abdul Ghaffar and Sherdil Yazdan respectively from the chairmanship of Ushr and Zakat committees of Gadezal tehsil and village Annaway following the allegations of corruption and embezzlement against them in the funds of the committees which simultaneously have been frozen.

Allegations against the terminated chairman were that they recommended totally undeserving persons for cash compensation from Ushr and Zakat fund in the list of quake-affected, of whom most were yet to open their eyes in the world.

After preliminary enquiry conducted jointly by the tehsildar and chairman Ushr and Zakat committee Buner, they were found guilty and were dismissed on the spot.

MEETING: Annual meeting of Al-Faiz Welfare Association was held at village Soora with Inamul-haq as its president in the chair.

A large number of people besides members of the association participated.

Nawab Gul general secretary highlighted in depth the function of the association and its usefulness.

Shamsur Razziq, finance secretary gave a detailed lecture on the necessity of mutual co-operation and assured every possible help on behalf of the association.

WRATH: On the fifth day of Ramazan-ul-Mubarak, in village Bjakata here a ruthless father killed his son with firearm.

The cause of the incident was reported to have been strained relation between them.

Despite concerted efforts in two could not be reconciled to normalised relations.

CHAGHARZAI'S PROBLEMS: Painta Khan, advocate general secretary Jamaat-i-Islami Chaghcharzai tehsil, while drawing the attention of the government towards the un-bearable trouble being faced by the people of that tehsil due to the baffling slow speed of construction work on the Budal-Martong Road, he demanded the government to take necessary and appropriate measures to redress the same in order to avert any unpleasant happening.

He said that contradictory statements on the matter from official side had further disappointed the people, which might become the main cause of unrest among them.

FRONTIER POST APR 01

Commissioner for Afghan Refugees retrenches 1617 employees

By Rabbaniullah Yousafzai

PESHAWAR.—The Commissioner for Afghan Refugees NWFP recently retrenched 1617 Pakistani employees of his organisation Monday to cope with the situation arising from budgetary constraints. A large number of the sacked employees thronged the offices of the Commissioner in Hayatabad to collect their re-enrichment letters and dues. Many of them had spent more than a decade looking after the Afghan refugees.

Gulzar Khan, Provincial Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, told his correspondent in an interview that the retrenchment had been long overdue due to the marked decline in the assistance provided by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), and other donor agencies. It is understood that more

than 2,000 employees of the

Afghan Refugees Commissionerate in NWFP, Balochistan and Punjab are being retrenched. The

number of retrenched staffers

(68 per cent) is lighter

because it had more refugees and local employees. A decision on retrenchment was taken by

trators who looked after four or

five camps had become redundant due to the presence of

three months were spent in pacifying the affected employees and

providing the money to be

paid to the retrenched people as compensation. An earlier estimate showed that Rs 42 million would be required to compensate those retrenched in NWFP alone.

The retrenched employees are being paid one year's wages plus gratuity payment for one month.

pay for each year of service rendered. Those with less than one

year's service would be paid three months pay for upto six months of service and six months

pay for less than one year of service.

milk, etc.

vise.

Those retrenched include 60

Area Administrators in grade 17

and 337 assistants, 310 store-

keepers, 370 junior clerks and 60

senior clerks. The rest are class

TV employees. According to

Gulzar Khan, the Area Adminis-

trators who looked after four or

five camps had become redundant due to the presence of

RFAOs in every camp.

He maintained that his organi-

sation was definitely over-staffed

since those involved on the logis-

tic side had little to do after the

big drop in relief assistance to

the refugees. In this context, he

pointed out that the refugees

were now getting only wheat (12

kilos per person monthly), and

edible oil (600 grams per person

monthly), unlike the past when

they were provided several relief

goods including tea leaves, sugar,

kerosene oil and dry skimmed

milk, etc.

There are presently about

12,000 Pakistanis looking after

the refugees in NWFP. They in-

clude 5017 on the logistic side,

of whom 1017 have now been re-

moved from areas about 7000

employees working in projects

like health, education, water sup-

ply and agriculture and not be re-

trenched. The remaining 12,000

and 733 re-employed pensioners

would also retain their jobs.

To further compensate the re-

trenched employees those apply-

ing for government jobs would be

given age relaxation. It is possi-

ble that they may also be pre-

fferred over other applicants for

government jobs if they have

equal qualifications and experi-

ence. The junior-most employees

were not among those retrenched and

Raihan, President of Afghan

Refugee Employees Association,

is among those whose services

were terminated. The Association

has given a strike call to protest

the retrenchment.

The News

APR 03

Hindus, Sikhs reach Pakistan from Khost

Non-Muslim migrants in miserable condition, say
their shops and homes looted by Mujahideen

From Rahimullah Yusufzai

PESHAWAR—About 70 Hindu and Sikh families are among the several thousand Afghan refugees who have crossed the border into Pakistan's Kurram and North Waziristan agencies following the fall of Khost on March 31.

The 30 Hindu and Sikh families which took refuge in Kurram agency are now residing in the Gurdwara Sri Thalla Sahib in Ibrahimzai village near Sadda. The conditions in which they are living are miserable. The women and children live in the big hall of the Gurdwara while the men sleep in the verandah. There are no rooms in the temple, hence no privacy.

It is a tough life for them since almost all these Hindus and Sikhs were well-to-do traders in Khost owning big shops and businesses. "I owned two cloth shops in Khost worth two and a half crore Afghani," informed Naranjan Singh while talking to a correspondent of The News outside the Gurdwara.

According to Naranjan Singh, another 30 Hindu and Sikh families from Khost had taken refuge in Miramshah, North Waziristan agency, while ten had gone farther to Bannu. He informed that Khost a few years ago had about 250 Hindu and Sikh families, mostly involved in trade and commerce. Most of them, he said, left Khost

for Gardez and Kabul when the city came under frequent Mujahideen attacks.

The Hindu-Sikh Panchayat in Kurram agency—which has several rich Hindu and Sikh trading families in Sadda and rest of lower Kurram valley—has been providing food rations to their uprooted brethren from across the Durand line. The Panchayat's head Munawwar Das has been trying to organise relief supplies for them.

The political administration of Kurram agency has however provided them Rs 1500 only. This amount is certainly peanuts to sustain 30 uprooted families with

Continued on Page back

Afghan refugees suffering from fatal diseases

From our correspondent

PARACHINAR—A number of Afghan refugees who fled to Pakistan following the fall of Khost are reportedly suffering from fatal diseases like Tuberculosis, Measles, whooping cough and Malaria.

These diseases have so far claimed the lives of a women and a minor. These diseases can take epidemic proportions, if not checked at once.

Some 450 Afghan families have so far migrated to the border village of Mali Khel near Prachinar. The Mali Khel villagers have provided them shelter on humanitarian grounds.

Afghan refugees to celebrate Eid on April 15

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—Afghan refugees in NWFP would celebrate Eid ul Fitr tomorrow (April 15) as they completed their 30th fast Sunday.

It may be mentioned that these refugees have been celebrating their Eid along with Afghanistan and Arab countries for the last 12 years. However it is still not clear whether the people of NWFP would observe Eid tomorrow as persistent rain and cloudy weather has hampered chances of moon sighting. Jamiat Uloom Afghan Committee Charsadda headed by Maulana Sabihud Din Sahabi Haq, which usually announces the decision would meet Sunday evening to decide the sighting or other wise of moon.

The News

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The News

APR 15

Pak call for world help for upkeep of Afghan refugees

ISLAMABAD (APP) — The acceleration of economic growth and social development in the developing countries is an important challenge for the world at present and this calls for sustained and stable growth of the world economy and greater flow of resources towards the developing countries.

This was stated by the minister for planning and development Hamid Nasir Chattha while speaking at the 47th session of ESCAP (Economic Social Commission for Asia and Pacific) which opened on Monday in Seoul, says a message received here on Tuesday.

He said that this requires international economic environment where the developing countries could exert their competitiveness through access to markets and technology and succeed in improving the quality of their human resources and modernise their economies.

The minister called upon the international community to seek to reverse the adverse trends of 80's. As the burden of poverty is spread unevenly among different regions in the world. He said that

"our region is worst hit by poverty as nearly half of the world's poor population live in South Asia. Rapid progress could be achieved by promoting productive use of labour and by providing basic services to the poor. International cooperation can provide effective support to the efforts at domestic level. While major responsibility for eradication of poverty necessarily rests with the developing countries."

There is a tremendously increasing flow of sources from developing countries to the developed countries which needs to be set in order in case of Pakistan only, the debt service ratio was more than 20 per cent of its total exports earning during the last year," he added.

The minister observed that the Gulf situation had devastating effects on the poor countries of Asia and Pacific whose living standard was bound to be affected severely. The changes in eastern Europe and Soviet Union are likely to have a significant impact on all.

The developing countries of the region must be fully assured that the additional demand for

resources in eastern Europe will not involve any diversion of resources from their development needs. Pakistan has been host to more than 3.5 million Afghan refugees for the last ten years." The minister called for international assistance for the upkeep of Afghan refugees.

Hamid Nasir Chattha said that the Pakistan government had introduced a solid industrial policy with a view to restructuring the industrial base of the country.

"Under the policy a number of concessions had been granted to the investors to encourage the industrialisation process. An important instrument of this policy is deregulation and privatisation which is not only confined to the industrial sector but also extends to other economic activities such as banking, trading and shipping. In line with this policy, the government has announced a comprehensive package of exchange and payments reforms designed to spur growth and improve economic performance by creating an attractive environment for higher investment and effective utilisation of talent," the minister added.

Hindus, Sikhs reach Pakistan from Khost

Continued from Page 1

more than 200 members. Speaking in Chaste Pashto, the Hindu and Sikh refugees related poignant tales regarding the fall of Khost. They informed that the barrage of Mujahideen rockets fired into Khost had made their lives tense and miserable. They also explained how surprised they were to find the Mujahideen knocking their doors.

Most of them insist that they have never indulged in politics and were primarily interested in

pursuing their trade as shopkeepers. They complained that their shops and houses were looted by the victorious Mujahideen in Khost.

The Hindu and Sikh shopkeepers were worried lest their Pashتو tribal friends and neighbours from Khost, who too had migrated to Pakistan, start demanding their money back which was loaned to them either for safe-keeping or on interest. "We are in no position to pay them back since we possess nothing", said Naranjan Singh.

The news

APR 15

Refugees start returning to Afghanistan

Voluntary repatriation increases because of demining, better health facilities

By MI Lashkar

ISLAMABAD—Some 300,000 Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and Iran returned to their homeland in 1989 and 1990. Out of them, about 200,000 returned home voluntarily, while 100,000 persons availed various facilities provided by the UN agencies.

This was stated in a report on Operation Salam, the code name for the UN rehabilitation programme for Afghan refugees launched in June 1988, which is continuing on a limited scale because of the operational constraints caused by the continuing war that is creating political uncertainty and a precarious security situation.

According to the report, out of the 100,000 refugees who availed UN facilities, 70,000 accepted the facilities under which those wishing to repatriate to their country from Pakistan were to be provided with material assistance to facilitate their return. Another lot of 30,000 returnees were assisted through the Peace Guard House project inside Afghanistan, which gave a package of temporary boarding and lodging facilities at camps before their permanent rehabilitation.

The report says that sponta-

nous repatriation movements are likely to increase in number and scale after Ramazan beginning.

The return of the refugees also increased after the clearance of mines by the UN agencies. Some 11,000 mines were destroyed manually and another 600 mechanically during de-mining operations in Afghanistan.

An area of 10 million square meters has been surveyed and mapped in this connection in nine provinces of Afghanistan so far.

According to the programme, an area of 80 million square meters will be cleared by manual demining and another 35 million square meters will be cleared by mechanical de-mining operations in 1991.

Other projects for 1991 include rehabilitation of agriculture through supply of inputs and repairs of irrigation systems, food aid through local shuras (councils), repair of roads, provision of shelters, health, water and training facilities costing a total of 223.4 million dollars. There is, however, a shortfall of 114.8 million US dollars which is 49.4 per cent of the total requirement. The UN has appealed to the member nations to meet the shortfall.

The News

APR 13

Pakistan urges UN to help end Kabul forces attacks on Khost

UNITED NATIONS-Pakistan on Tuesday urged the United Nations to help stop the Kabul regime's "brutal" Scud missile and aerial attacks on Khost, which has been liberated by the Afghan Mujahideen, reports APP's Special Correspondent.

In a letter to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Ambassador Jamsheed Marker quoted reports from Afghanistan as saying that the intense bombardment was taking a heavy toll of life and causing devastation of property in the Afghan city.

The Pakistani Ambassador proposed the dispatch of a UN team to Khost to "observe the situation and the killing and suffering caused by the indiscriminate aerial bombardment and the use of weapons of mass destruction by the Kabul regime."

He urged the UN chief to "use his influence" in putting an end to these attacks.

Ambassador Marker reaffirmed Pakistan's "resolute commitment" to promote a political settlement of the Afghan conflict and its readiness to cooperate with the peace efforts of the Secretary-General.

In the wake of the *Mujahideen* victory, Perez de Cuellar, who has been engaged in working out a settlement, renewed his appeal to all Afghans to settle the conflict peacefully.

The recent events in Khost emphasise the urgency to find a political settlement and should strengthen the resolve of the international community to intensify its efforts towards that end," he said in a statement.

The UN chief said his personal representative on Afghanistan, Benon Sevan, who is currently in the area, was in contact with all parties concerned.

In Washington, a senior United States official said the capture of Khost had exposed the weakness of

the Soviet-backed Kabul regime in Kabul.

Under-Secretary of State Robert Kimmitt, speaking on a worldnet programme beamed by satellite to South Asia, said it "indicates the fragility of the regime of Najibullah" and his ruling party.

He aid the United States would continue to support the Afghan *Mujahideen*.

In his letter to the Secretary-General, Ambassador Marker informed him that the local *Mujahideen* commanders Shoura had declared cease fire and general amnesty and was attending to the humanitarian needs of the population "on an emergency basis".

The Shoura, he said, had also invited the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) to extend humanitarian assistance in the area.

The Kabul regime's troops had surrendered to the *Mujahideen* in large numbers and they have been

See back page

Pakistan seeks UN help to stop Kabul raids on Khost

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TOP: Afghan guerrillas drive a tank captured from government troops in a suburb of Khost garrison. The garrison fell to rebel guerrillas on March 31 after heavy fighting.—Reuter

MIDDLE: Afghan Mujahideen sit atop a bullet ridden Soviet made Kabul government Antonov AN-32 transport plane at Khost airport on April 02. The fall of the city on March 31 is considered a major victory for the Mujahideen in 12 years.—AFP

BOTTOM: Afghan Mujahideen take away ammunition from the captured Khost garrison in Eastern Afghanistan after defeating Soviet-backed Afghan government troops. After over 12 years of resistance, the fall of the garrison town has boosted morale of the guerilla fighters.—AFP

UN urged to help stop Scud attack on Khost

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In his letter to the Secretary-General, ambassador Marker informed

Cell meeting today

KARACHI, April 2: The high-level meeting of the Afghan Cell in Islamabad is to meet on Tuesday to draft the policy towards Afghanistan in the wake of Mujahideen's success in capturing Khost garrison town, BBC reported.

The Afghan Cell comprises high-level military and Foreign Ministry officials of the Pakistan Government.—BBC

him that the local Mujahideen commanders' Shoura had declared a ceasefire and general amnesty and was attending to the humanitarian needs of the population "on an emergency basis."

The Shoura, he said, had also invited the International Committee of Red Cross to extend humanitarian assistance to the area.

The Kabul régime's troops had surrendered to the Mujahideen in large numbers and they had been assured "full protection" with those belonging to the area allowed to join their families after laying down their arms, the letter said. The injured troops were being provided with medical care.

According to reports, the local population has welcomed the Mujahideen and the end to the fighting in Khost, it said.

The Secretary-General said he was "deeply concerned" about the continued fighting and loss of life and devastation in Afghanistan.

He urged the Afghans to put their national interest above all other interests and resolve their differences through a political process which would ensure the exercise of their right to self-determination and establish a broad-based government in Kabul.

Afghan Mujahideen said on Tuesday that government troops fired four Scud missiles overnight into the eastern city of Khost which was taken over by Mujahideen on Sunday.

Initial reports said that the Scud missiles were fired at the airport and Mujahideen positions. At least two exploded inside the city and as many as 14 people were killed.

—APP

DAWN

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Khost

Continued from page 1

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UN envoy opens new round of Afghan talks

NEW YORK, April 16: A UN envoy has begun shuttle diplomacy between Afghan leader Najibullah and Afghan guerrilla leaders in Pakistan. UN spokesman Francois Giuliani said Tuesday.

Benon Sevan, the personal representative of UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, met with Pakistani Foreign Secretary Akram Zaki and Afghan Mujahideen leaders in Islamabad before leaving for Kabul, Mr. Giuliani said.

Mr. Sevan's shuttle diplomacy came at the behest of Perez de Cuellar who wanted to launch an intensive effort to find a political solution to the 12-year-old Afghan conflict, the UN spokesman said.

Mr. Sevan was expected to return to Islamabad soon to meet again with Pakistani officials and members of the Afghan resistance, which has been fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government since 1979. —AFP

MUSLIM APR 11

PQIP condemns ANP's silence on fall of Khost

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—The Pukhtoonkhwa Qaumi Inqilabi Party (PQIP) has called upon the ANP leadership to compel its IJI coalition partners to stop interfering in Afghanistan's affairs.

In a statement, the PQIP castigated the ANP for keeping silence on the fall of Khost, achieved by the ISI and IJI government through blatant intervention in Afghanistan. It lamented that Khost which had defied the so-called Mujahideen for 12 long years fell when the ANP was in power in Pukhtoonkhwa province.

The statement said it didn't suit Khan Abdul Wali Khan and other ANP leaders to walk hand in

hand with the IJI which, they in the past, had termed as an ISI creation.

The PQIP statement charged Pakistan army for being involved in the Khost offensive. It expressed concern over the statements by Qazi Hussain Ahmad and certain Afghan extremists to attack Kabul. It demanded that Pakistan must abide by the Geneva Accords and work for peace instead of fuelling the Afghan civil war.

The statement urged the Pukhtoon nation to rise above petty politics and forge unity in its ranks to foil attempts aimed at their genocide. It said the Pukhtoon intelligentsia must play its role to save Afghanistan from divisions.

UN urged to settle Afghan issue

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan has appealed to the UN Secretary-General to take immediate measures for a political settlement in Afghanistan in order to stop the bloodshed of the Afghans.

Addressing a Press conference after Federal Cabinet meeting here on Saturday, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, the Prime Minister's Adviser on Information and Broadcasting said Pakistan is prepared to have contacts with the United States, Soviet Union, Iran and Saudi Arabia for the political settlement in Afghanistan. He said it is the policy of Pakistan that the Afghan issue is amicably resolved by the Afghans themselves and Pakistan is opposed to any foreign interference in it.

When asked if the visit of the Amir of Jama'at-i-Islami, Qazi Hussain Ahmed to Khost following its fall to Afghan Mujahideen was discussed by the Cabinet, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said it was not debated. He said we are happy that after capturing Khost, the Mujahideen did not indulge in revengeful activities or looting, etc.

He said it is desire of Pakistan that over three million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan return to their homeland. However, it could only be possible when a government of their choice is established there which could only be possible if the Afghans are given the right of self-determination.—PPI.

NATION APR 07

UN donation for ACBAR

PESHAWAR—At a simple ceremony organised at the ACBAR office, Peshawar, the UNHCR head of sub-office Mr. Colin Mitchell handed over a cheque for \$20,000 to the Executive Director of ACBAR, Mr Jon Bennett. Mr Mitchell praised the good work ACBAR is doing in coordinating the activities of the various NGOs

working for the relief of Afghans. He said that the cheque was a token of support and appreciation of this work.

He expressed the hope that this year many Afghan refugees would return to their homeland assisted by joint efforts of the UN and NGOs.—PR.



The News APR 13

2000 schools destroyed in Afghan war: UNESCO

LONDON—About 2000 schools have been destroyed in the war that has ravaged Afghanistan in the past 10 years, and as many teachers have either been killed in the conflict or have left the country.

The desperate need for reconstruction of the education system is made all the more acute by the flux of Afghan refugees now returning home.

Village basic education centres are one idea being developed by UNESCO to attack the problem. The aim is to provide a low-cost, flexible and multi-purpose centre that can be tailored to the particular needs of villages.

Such a centre would consist of three classrooms for children, a multi-purpose reading room where

U.N. intensifies effort to resolve Afghan conflict

UNITED NATIONS (APP)—The United Nations has stepped up its efforts to promote a political solution of the 12-year-old conflict in Afghanistan, a U.N. spokesman said on Tuesday.

The spokesman, Francois Giuliani, said the secretary-general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Benon Sevan, was in Kabul on Tuesday for talks with Kabul regime leaders following his meetings with senior foreign ministry officials in Islamabad.

This is the United Nations envoy's first shuttle between the two capitals following the liberation of the garrison city of Khost by the Afghan mujahideen earlier this month.

Sevan said last week the fall of Khost had not sidetracked the search for peace but instead emphasised the urgent need for talks.

In Islamabad, Sevan held meetings with the secretary-general of the foreign ministry, Akram Zaki, foreign secretary, Sheharyar Khan as well as Afghan resistance leaders.

He was having talks in Kabul with President Najibullah, Prime Minister Fazlulhaq Khaliqyar and Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil, as well as other senior officials.

The spokesman said Sevan will return to Islamabad today for further talks with senior Pakistan officials as well as Afghan resistance leaders in Islamabad and Peshawar.

literacy can be taught to adults and young people, two or three workshops for skill training for men and women, a day care centre, a teacher's house, a well and latrines, areas for poultry raising and vegetable gardens and space for leisure activities.

However, the key to the success of any such project is the commitment of the concerned community. Thus, local leaders and representatives are involved from the start.

In cases where no facilities whatsoever exist, a provisional centre can be set up in a large tent. Architects and education specialists of UNESCO on the spot have designed mobile room dividers and desks that can double up as chairs and blackboards, to furnish these

classrooms and get activities underway quickly.

If the villagers give their support to the construction of a more permanent centre, begins says a UNESCO report, inaccessible items such as roofs, doors, windows, furniture and educational supplies are provided through outside assistance, while the community is expected to make its contribution in labour, allocation of the site and the construction of the foundations and walls.

Construction of the first two centres, at Shashqi Qala and Gul Khel in the Wardak province, was completed last November. Another six centres are being established, initially with tents in south-eastern Afghanistan.

UN envoy satisfied with Afghan talks

UNITED NATIONS—A UN envoy has begun shuttle diplomacy between Afghan President Najibullah and Afghan Guerrilla leaders in Tehran on efforts to promote a political settlement of the conflict in Afghanistan, a UN spokeswoman said on Tuesday.

Benon Sevan, the UN Secretary-General's personal representative on Afghanistan, who arrived in the Iranian capital on Saturday, met with Pakistan's secretary general of foreign affairs Akrain Zaid and Afghan Mujahideen leaders in Islamabad before leaving for Kabul, Mr Giuliani said.

Mr Sevan's shuttle diplomacy came at the behest of Javier Perez de Cuellar who wanted to launch an intensive effort to find a political solution to the 12-year-old Afghan conflict, the UN spokesman said.

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He is scheduled to have discussions with the Afghan resistance leaders in Tehran on Wednesday and have another round of talks with Iranian officials before leaving for Geneva.

Spokeswoman Nadia Younes said Sevan, who has already held similar meetings in Islamabad and Kabul, also held discussions with the authorities on the United Nations Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes relating to Afghanistan.—APP.

Wali asks govt. to stop 'interference' in Afghan affairs

F.P. Report

Khan Abdul Wali Khan, rabbani-tahrif of the Awami National Party has asked the government to concentrate on self reliance in the foreign policy and give up being a party to the Afghan civil war.

In a statement on Tuesday issued in Peshawar, the ANP leader said that United States had given up Pakistan as a strategic friend, but the government of Pakistan continued to follow the pro-American foreign policy. He added that our Afghan policy was also based on American interests which caused spread of heroin and Kalaikot culture in Pakistan.

He said, it was about time when the government of Pakistan adopted a policy to ensure return of lacks of the Afghan refugees but they were still pouring in which was result of attack on Khost. He reiterated that he had always said it was not a jihad but a war between two factions of the Afghan society.

By taking the Afghan headache, the government of Pakistan was not helping Pakistan by any means aid in view of cut in foreign aid it was imperative to get rid of this problem. Now, he said, the problem was getting worsen by our government and this was because of some very powerful people in the government, who were bent upon following the old American policy vis-a-vis the Afghan issue.

Scud hits Khost bazar

The captured garrison town of Khost remained almost calm and peaceful on Tuesday. However, the mujahideen were busy consolidating their positions, reports Afghan News Agency. No untoward incident was reported.

The city remained enveloped in thick clouds during the past two days. The Khost bazar was, however, hit by a Scud missile on Monday which caused large-scale destruction. Three persons were reported dead and a number of others injured.

FRONTIER POST APR 03

Senator congratulates mujahideen on victory

ISLAMABAD (PPN)—The secretary general of Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (S) Senator Maulana Samiul Haq has congratulated and paid glowing tributes to Afghan mujahideen commander Jalaluddin Haqqani on capturing the city of Khost.

According to JUI sources, Senator Samiul Haq and commander Jalaluddin Haqqani on Monday exchanged views on wireless after mujahideen's victory.

The senator said the mujahideen's victory in Khost is the result of the long and persistent struggle of Jalaluddin Haqqani. He said when the entire world has abandoned the Afghans, this victory proves that the mujahideen are still capable of conquering Afghanistan.

Jalaluddin Haqqani said the victory was possible only because of the great sacrifices made by the mujahideen. He said this success is certainly a matter of pride for Darul Uloom Haqqania, as one of its students is fighting the evil forces in Afghanistan.

Jalaluddin Haqqani, who was a student of the darul uloom, also paid tributes to late Maulana Abdul Haq, who was his teacher and the father of Senator Samiul Haq.

The News

APR 02

Sami greets Afghan leader on capturing Khost

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FRONTIER POST APR 02

Pakistan seeks UN help to stop Kabul's bombing of Khost

Cuellar calls for peaceful settlement

By Anwar Iqbal

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan asked the United Nations here Tuesday to intervene to stop scud and air attacks against the eastern Afghan city of Khost which fell to the Mujahideen guerrillas on Sunday.

The appeal followed a report from Khost that 14 people, including the rebels, were killed and 30 wounded in scud attacks on Khost.

A spokesperson for the Pakistan foreign office, commenting on the scud attacks, said Islamabad had asked the United Nations to stop Kabul from firing scuds at the Khost city as the missiles would not only kill the Mujahideen fighters but also innocent civilians.

A spokesperson for the interim government of Afghan Mujahideen said the scuds were fired at the same time as President Najibullah was announcing national mourning for "the martyrs" of Khost.

The protest reflects the guerrilla's fear of Kabul's air superiority. The Kabul forces are armed with scud missiles and a fleet of modern Soviet aircraft while the Mujahideen have no air cover.

In 1989 their offensive against Jalalabad met with partial success but tables were turned when Kabul resorted to heavy bombing against Jalalabad, capital of the Nangarhar province, and forced the Mujahideen to retreat.

APP adds: In the wake of the

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mujahideen victory, Perez de Cuellar, who has been engaged in working out a settlement, renewed his appeal to all Afghans to settle the conflict peacefully.

"The recent events in Khost emphasise the urgency to find a political settlement and should strengthen the resolve of the international community to intensify its efforts towards that end," he said in a statement.

The UN chief said his personal representative on Afghanistan, Benoit Sevan, who is currently in the area, was in contact with all parties concerned.

In Washington, a senior United States official said the capture of Khost had exposed the weakness of the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

Pakistan, Mujahideen face crucial decision

ISLAMABAD—In the next few weeks, the Afghan Mujahideen and Pakistan have to make crucial political decisions, which will determine whether there can be a peaceful solution of the conflict or the war continues leading to a Lebanonisation of Khost has spurred diplomatic efforts by UN and created a new impetus for a

local administration. The ICRC is now carrying out a head count of all prisoners held by individual commanders, while a number of prisoners are reported to have already been released by the Mujahideen.

President Najibullah has admitted to the fall of Khost and called for a day of national mourning. The Kabul regime is now firing Scud missiles into Khost to prevent the Mujahideen from turning it into a permanent base. On Tuesday night, four Scud missiles exploded in the centre of Khost killing 10 people.

The Mujahideen and Pakistan now face a crucial decision—whether to push on to capture more Afghan cities and continue their policy of a military solution to conflict, or to use the victory at Khost to maintain pressure but step up diplomatic efforts to end the conflict.

On Tuesday yesterday the Afghan Cell, made up of the country's top decision-makers, held a meeting that Western diplomats and Pakistani officials said could be decisive to bring about a major change in Pakistan's Afghanistan policy. If in the past, the military and the fundamentalist Mujahideen have

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Qazi visits Khost

KHOST—The Amir of Jaridat-e-Islami, Qazif Hussain Ahmed and Chief of Hizb-e-Islami Afghanistan, Gulbadin Hikmatyar on Wednesday visited Khost for the first time after its fall at the hands of Mujahideen.

Both the leaders entered the Khost which is second strategically important city in Afghanistan after Kabul along with a representative team of national media. They were warmly welcomed by local commanders including Bakht Zameen and thousands of Mujahideen with loud slogans and heavy-firing with light weapons.

They took round-trip an open jeep for five consecutive hours of all important places of the city including Army brigade headquarters, police headquarters, Khost bazar, Radio station, TV booster and old and new airports.—PPI

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Pakistan, Mujahideen face crucial decision

Continued from page 1

always pushed for a military solution, diplomats and Afghan leaders said that the Khost victory was made possible by a change of policy, whereby Pakistan gave political support to all the Mujahideen groups equally and did not favour just the fundamentalist groups, particularly Gulbadin Hikmatyar's Hizbe Islami. The military and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan now realise the importance of uniting the Mujahideen and combining military pressure with a major diplomatic initiative to end the war," said a Western diplomat.

Although Mr Hikmatyar is now urging his forces to capture Gardez, another key garrison town and push on to Kabul, there is optimism amongst Pakistani officials that Islamabad will now try to persuade all the Mujahideen groups to maintain the military pressure, but support UN efforts to end the war, a task made infinitely difficult by the deeply divided Mujahideen.

The UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Benon Sevan, has stepped up his shuttle between the five involved countries-Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, the US and the Soviet Union to achieve an international consensus on ending the war. There is a unique opportunity after the Gulf War to accelerate the ongoing diplomatic efforts towards achieving an international consensus towards a settlement—an international disengagement from Afghanistan, to let Afghans decide for themselves, Sevan told *The Nation*. "However, there can be no imposition from outside. We cannot repeat the Geneva process and take decisions over the heads of Afghans. Geneva failed to resolve Afghanistan's internal problems," he said.

"I believe there is a convergence of interests of the external parties for a solution of the problem which will serve the interests of all concerned, even though their interests are not identical. I believe all the external parties are now more committed than ever," he said.

It is now widely believed that Saudi Arabia is ready to support the UN effort, having been so badly let down during the Gulf war by the fundamentalist Mujahideen parties. Although Saudi humanitarian aid to the Afghan refugees is continuing, The Saudis are expected to dramatically cut back aid to the fundamentalist Mujahideen parties, while aid from Kuwait has dried up completely. Despite their renewed military commitment to the Najibullah regime, the Soviets also remain keen for a settlement as long as it involves the Watan Party in a future democratic election.

However, Sevan warned that "Khost should not detract from the international resolve to move ahead because irrespective of military victories here and there, neither side will achieve an overall military victory. The only way to settle the Afghan question is by a political process, with the establishment of a broad-based Government which enjoys the confidence of the majority of Afghan people," he added.

The UN's second track is to persuade the resistance to unite on a single platform. The UN Secretary-General's call in 1989 for a structured Afghan delegation to come together is now more valid than ever and it requires urgent attention," said Sevan. "The resistance needs to come together to form a group which can talk on behalf of it as there are too many factions within it," he said. However, the Mujahideen still refuse to negotiate with President Najibullah.

The Khost victory is also expected to encourage the US Congress to pay this month, the second tranche of the 250 million dollars the US has committed in covert military aid to the Mujahideen for 1991. The US has so far withheld 125 million dollars because of the Mujahideen's disunity and lack of military successes. Both the US and the Soviet Union will continue military aid to their protégés in Afghanistan until there is a solution, but the chances of a settlement have now looked brighter.

For the first time, the key components of the Pakistani establishment-the President, the Prime Minister, the Foreign Office, the ISI and the GHQ, now appear to be moving towards a consensus policy. Sources said a key role in recent months in co-ordinating policy efforts and encouraging the Mujahideen to unite has been played by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Even moderate Afghan leaders praise the President for doing a great deal to shift Pakistan's emphasis from merely seeking a military solution to a combined military-political policy.

Since the Geneva Accords were signed, everyone has had a go at handling and dominating Afghan Policy—the ISI, the Chief of Army Staff, the Foreign Office and to some extent former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The lack of consensus at the top has consistently failed to send the right signals to the international community and the UN, while creating sharp division at home.

This period now appears to be coming to an end. What is clearly needed now is a policy that pushes the Mujahideen's military advantages in the field to impress upon the Soviets and the Kabul regime that the entire Pakistani establishment is now united and seriously committed to a political solution to end the war. If a public endorsement by the country's leaders of international peace efforts is given soon, it may not be too late to retain the support of all those Afghan elements, including the Kabul regime, who have come to mistrust Pakistan's intentions.

Pakistan remains the key to an Afghan settlement, not only because of its influence in being able to bring the Mujahideen together but because of the international support it can gather if Islamabad shows a willingness to move the diplomatic process forward. Although such a process will still take many months and there are no quick solutions or easy answers, the long suffering Afghan people may be on the verge of finally bringing a devastating 12 years to an end.

Afghan fighting

BUREAU REPORT

ANP leader accuses Pakistan of interference

PESHAWAR, April 5: Mohammad Afzal Khan, chief of the Awami National Party (H) and deputy leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, has called upon the Pukhtoons living on both sides of the Durand Line to realise gravity of the situation and try to understand the policies of the government in Islamabad.

In a Press statement, Mohammad Afzal Khan said, "the continuation of military adventurism inside Afghanistan, the defeat of the Pukhtoonkhwa resolution in the Assembly and preparation for the construction of the Kalabagh Dam, hinted at a comprehensive plan to reduce Afghanistan to the status of a colony, deprive the Pukhtoons of their national identity and to

leave them economically crippled by spoiling their agricultural potentials.

Referring to what he described the Islamabad-backed attack on the Khost garrison, the ANP(H) leader said, "an exchange of greetings between American diplomats and Pakistani officials on the fall of Khost and a television interview of the American Under Secretary of State Robert Kennett clearly indicate that Khost fell to the attack of a regular army and not to a handful of Mujahideen. This army could not have been dropped from the sky. The only army that could cross into the Afghan territory could be from a neighbouring country."

Pointing to Pakistan's appeals

to the U.N. for intervention to stop Afghan Air Force's attacks on Khost Afzal Khan said, "the only role that the UN can play here is to ask Pakistan to abide by the Geneva Accord in letter and spirit. He called upon the Pakistani based Afghan leaders to learn a lesson from the British forward policy and clearly understand that it is being revived. This time by those who wanted to capitalise up on the differences among Afghans. He said the entire world has realised the importance of resolving problems through negotiations. It was time that the accepted peaceful and democratic norms should be tried. "We will be eliminated if we refuse to listen to reason and fail to learn from History," he concluded.

Qazi's visit to Khost under fire in N.A.

F.P. Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD — The Khost visit of Jama at-i-Islami amir and member of the Senate Qazi Hussain Ahmed to celebrate "mujahideen's victory" there came under fire in the National Assembly on Thursday.

It was Pukhtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PMAP) chief and MNA from Balochistan Mehmud Khan Achakzai who rose on a point of order and strongly criticised Qazi's visit inside Afghanistan and termed it Pakistan's interference in the internal affairs of that country.

"What will be your stance when I visit Kabul and Kandhar and pose for a group photo with rulers there," he questioned.

Achakzai's criticism forced ANP's Haji Ghulam Ahmed Bilour, MNA, from Peshawar to criticise the Afghan policy of the JI government to which his party is an ally. Bilour said "we are with the government on its policy on Kashmir issue but we oppose their Afghan policy," he added.

He said visit of a member of the

upper house of the parliament of our country to Khost was by no way in the national interests.

PMAP and ANP members on the occasion lodged strong protest on the "interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs" and stressed for changing Pakistan's policy in this regard.

However, Jamaat and Muslim League members of the JI advocated government's Afghanistan policy besides defending Qazi Hussain Ahmed's visit to Khost. Jamaat's Liaquat Baluch and Muslim League's Malik Allah Yar Khan and Nazir Wirak said Qazi Hussain Ahmed was a staunch supporter of Afghan Jihad that was why he went there to take part in celebrations of mujahideen's victory.

They said Afghan mujahideen have publicly announced that there was no need of getting any visa for visiting the areas under their control. They described the criticism by PMAP and ANP members on the visit of Qazi Hussain Ahmed to Khost as unwarranted.

FRONTIER POST APR 05

Najib continues hue & cry against Pakistan

F.P. Monitoring Report

As a part of anti-Pakistan campaign, which Kabul regime has started since the fall of Khost to mujahideen on March 31, President Najibullah on Friday sent letters to the heads of several Islamic countries asking them to pressure Pakistan to stop 'interference' in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The letters which had been sent to King Hussein of Jordan, PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Tunisian President Zain al-Abdeen, Algerian President Chadli ben Jadiid, Libyan leader Col. Qaddafi and President Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen, alleged that due to Pakistan's direct involvement and military assistance to mujahideen, Khost had fallen to them (Afghan opposition).

As a result of mujahideen's attack on Khost a number of innocent civilians, including children, had been killed.

Radio Kabul giving some

excerpts from the letters termed it as "direct involvement and naked aggression" against the Geneva Accords.

Afghanistan, President Najib said he wanted good relations with Pakistan and expressed the hope that Islamic countries would take steps to stop further bloodshed in Afghanistan.

Najibullah had earlier sent the same letters to the presidents of Iran and Turkey.

Earlier on Friday Radio Kabul in its English service also criticised the Afghan cell established in Pakistan. While referring to the cell's recent meeting in Islamabad, the radio said, that the cell had no right to interfere in the Afghan affairs.

Meanwhile, Kabul regime's air force has been continuing air raids on the mujahideen positions in Khost. The aim of air bombing, AIR said, was to weaken mujahideen's stronghold on the city so that they could not use it as political and military base for future

attacks on Kabul regime.

Indian foreign ministry, meanwhile, has expressed its concern over the resumption of war in Afghanistan. A foreign ministry spokesman in New Delhi on Friday while criticising "foreign elements" involvement in the war termed it as against the norms of Geneva Accords and U.N. resolutions.

BBC in its report from Khost said that mujahideen leader Gulbadin Hekmatyar had warned that those elements who were claiming the capture of Khost had been sowing seeds of discord among the mujahideen. Apparently he was pointing towards Jalaluddin Haqqani.

Hekmatyar has directed his men to encircle Kabul for attack in near future. Haqqani is planning to launch offensive against other small cities. BBC Islamabad correspondent in her despatch said that mujahideen had got assistance from ISI in the Khost offensive.

FRONTIER POST APR 06

Wali Khan slates Pakistan's 'interference' in Afghan affairs

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—ANP leader Khan Abdul Wali Khan has demanded an end to Pakistan's interference in Afghanistan's affairs and reforming Islamabad's pro US Afghan policy.

In a statement issued here Tuesday, he asked the LII government whether it was serving Pakistan and Islam by fuelling bloodshed in a neighbouring Islamic country and interfering in its internal affairs. He maintained the fighting in Afghanistan now was no longer a 'Jehad' but was a civil war.

Wali Khan said Pakistan instead of peacefully resolving the Afghan issue to facilitate the return of the refugees was, through unwise moves, further complicating the matter. He warned that the number of Afghan refugees was rising in the wake of the recent attack on Khost, thereby compounding Pakistan's problems.

Wali Khan felt the decline in international assistance for the refugees would increase the burden on Pakistan. He feared that certain powerful elements in the government wanted to continue

the pro US Afghan policy despite public pronouncements to resolve the Afghan question under Geneva accords.

Wali Khan asked whether it would not be appropriate for Islamabad to concentrate on its problems instead of becoming a party to the Afghan civil war. He wondered why Pakistan was still clinging to the Americans now that Washington no longer considered Islamabad helpful in protecting its international interests. He said Pakistan ought to strive for self reliance in its foreign policy as well.

The News
APR 03

Mujahids to capture Kabul this year: Qazi

KARACHI (PPI) — Amir of Jamaat-i-Islami, Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad, has predicted that mujahideen will capture Kabul this year, Kashmir issue will be resolved and the Muslim world will get united under the leadership of Islamic movement.

He was addressing a big congregation of Shabe-i-Dua at Saddar area of Karachi on Thursday night.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad said a wave of re-awakening was sweeping the world and was no longer an age of humility for the Muslims.

While referring to the fading glory of Russia, he said, this country was unmatched in respect of military might only 12 years ago but it began crumbling down soon after its discomfiture in Afghanistan.

"Afghan mujahideen did not accept direct aid from United States and Hizbe-i-Islami leader Gulbadin Hekmatyar refused to comply with the desire of former American President Reagan, to meet him when he had gone to Washington to attend U.N. session," he said.

"They knew pretty well that America would strive to pounce upon the fruit of their struggle so they moulded mass opinion against America at the same time when they launched crusade against USSR," he added.

While describing his recent visit to Khost, Qazi Hussain Ahmad said, there was unique representation of Muslim masses, including those of Karachi, Hyderabad, Multan, Lahore, Peshawar, Kashmir and other parts of our country and they all have rendered sacrifices in the Jihād.

He said Khost was second most sacred city after Rabul for Najib group, but they were so appalled by the mujahideen attack that they could not destroy a huge dump of arms and ammunition before their escape.

He said, Muslim rulers promoted their personal interest and they invited their adversary to save their crown. These rulers did not possess potential and capability to lead the Muslims and time was near when Muslim masses would unite under the umbrella of Islamic movements, he added.

FRONTIER POST APR 06

'Pakistan Army masterminded Khost attack'

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—Chief of the Awami National Party (Haqqi) Mohammad Afzal Khan has called on the Pakistan based Afghan leaders to realize the designs of the Pakistani ruling clique which he alleged wanted to capitalize on their internal differences in order to colonize Afghanistan.

Mohammad Afzal Khan in a statement Friday argued that the exchange of greetings between US and Pakistani officials and the statement of the US under secretary of State Robert Kemmet praising Afghan Mujahideen for better utilization of Tanks, armoured personal carriers and mortar guns clearly indicated that the Khost battle was carried out not by a handful of Pakistan trained Aghans but Pakistan army itself.

He slated Pakistan's appeal to the United Nations to stop Afghanistan from carrying out air attacks on Khost.

The UN should instead force

Pakistan to abide by the Geneva Accord, give up its colonial designs and work for a negotiated settlement to the Afghan conflict so that peace and tranquility prevail in the region, he added.

The ANP (H) chief called on Pukhtoons living on both sides of the Durand Line to comprehend the gravity of the situation and foil the forward policy of the ruling clique in Islamabad.

The Pukhtoon leader alleged, the continuation of military adventurism in Afghanistan, the defeat of Pukhtoonkhwa motion in the Frontier Assembly and preparation for the construction of Kalabagh dam was part of a comprehensive plan to deprive Pukhtoons of their national identity and cripple their agro-economic potentials.

He called on all Pukhtoons to rise to the occasion and solve their problems through peaceful and democratic negotiations. They would be eliminated if they did not learn lesson from the history, he warned.

The News

APR 06

Afghan issue's early solution urged

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD, April 6: Pakistan has asked UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar to speed up efforts for an early political settlement of Afghanistan issue.

The UN chief has also been informed that Pakistan has made latest contacts with Soviet Union, United States, Saudi Arabia and Iran to help resolve the 11-year-old Afghan crisis. Islamabad has made this new move to resolve the issue following the liberation of Khost.

The Federal Cabinet which met here on Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif while reviewing all the aspects of the Afghan issue approached the UN Secretary-General to foster his efforts to find out early resolution of the Afghan problem.

"The liberation of Khost by Mujahideen is a good news" said Prime Minister's Adviser on Information Sheikh Rashid Ahmad.

Briefing newsmen after the cabinet meeting, he said, "we have just informed the UN Secretary-General that we are maintaining constant contact with all the four countries concerning the Afghan problem. Therefore, he (Cuellar) should also make fresh efforts to resolve the issue."

He said that Pakistan wanted that some early political solution of the Afghan problem was found out so that the bloodshed in that country could be over.

Sheikh Rashid also said that it was very gratifying for the Government of Pakistan that Mujahideen have not started the victimisation of the people after capturing Khost.

When asked whether chief of Jamaat-i-Islami had gone to Khost with the permission of the government, he said, "I have no knowledge about it". When pressed further, he told a reporter that he did not present the JI chief and, therefore, he should not be asked questions about Qazi Hussain Ahmad.

HELD KASHMIR: The Cabinet also expressed its grave concern over the imposition of the Press

and public laws in the Indian-held Kashmir and condemned Indian Government for putting ban on newspapers.

"The Cabinet desisted at length with the continued atrocities in occupied Kashmir, particularly the gang rape of women by the Indian forces and the killing of innocent children", he added.

He pointed out that Foreign Secretary Sheryar Khan, who is currently in New Delhi, has been directed to take up the issue with the Indian Government. Mr Sheryar Khan "has been asked to express Pakistan's gravest concern over what is currently happening in occupied Kashmir".

OTHER ISSUES: Sheikh Rashid said that the performance of Pakistan Railways was also discussed threadbare by the Cabinet and various options were discussed to reduce the colossal losses of the organisation.

The Cabinet has, in principal agreed to authorise some private company for the sale of Railways ticketing and the matter will be finalised after the return of Railways Minister Hazar Khan Bijarani from Bangladesh.

In reply to a question, the Adviser said that the Cabinet has not discussed the issue of increasing the charges of gas and electricity.

Sheikh Rashid said that the Cabinet also approved the transfer of Rs 110 million Saver Raffle to the Ministry of Sports. "Now the Ministry will handle this money and spend it on building new play grounds".

He said that it was also agreed that from now onwards all the educational degrees issued by the former communist countries will be acceptable and that the holders of those degrees will be provided equal chances to have jobs in all the government departments.

The Adviser said that the Cabinet has approved a fine of Rs 10 million and five years punishment for those apprehended fishing in Pakistan's economic zone.

DAWN APR 07

KHOST, AFGHANISTAN



KHOST: Victorious Mujahideen sit atop a bullet-ridden Afghan government transport plane at the captured Khost airport yesterday.—AFP

In Afghanistan: cease fire please

By Eqbal Ahmad

DAWN APR 01

THE Mujahideen's capture of the garrison town of Khost is, without doubt, a battlefield victory for the Afghan resistance. Yet, unless it produces a concerted effort towards a political solution of the Afghan war, it is likely to prove a pyrrhic 'victory'.

Khost has some strategic value because of its proximity to the supply lines between Kabul and Afghanistan's south-western provinces. Yet, the significance of this battle is more psychological than military. Successive Mujahideen attempts to capture this Afghan government post near Pakistan's border, had failed; and Kabul had been presenting its hold on Khost as an example of Mujahideen's weakness and its own strength. That claim has now been dissipated.

There is also a political gain for the resistance. After the capture of Khost, Mujahideen behaviour contrasted with their conduct in towns, like Kunar, which they had captured earlier. Prisoners were taken, not summarily murdered; no widespread looting has been reported; and the few civilians remaining in the area were not molested. President Sibghatullah Mujahiddi of the Afghan Interim Government promptly invited the International Red Cross to visit Khost, and gave it access to the wounded and the prisoners. As a result, a needed improvement in the international and, more importantly, Afghan image of the Mujahideen has occurred.

These gains can produce two contrasting responses among Mujahideen leaders and its primary support — the Government of Pakistan. They may feel more confident of their fighting and coordinating capabilities; therefore, more inclined to maintain the quest for decisive victory. This would entail renewed military effort while paying lip-service to the need for a political settlement. On the other hand, they might judge that they can now start a peace process from a position of strength, and conclude also that if they fail seriously to seek a political settlement now, it would be too late later.

The Pakistan government's Afghan cell met in Islamabad on April 3; this was its first meeting in three months, which is an indication of the importance officials here attach to the fall of Khost. Both President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif were in attendance. The substance of their deliberations is not known. But statements which have so far emanated from Afghan and Pakistani leaders in Peshawar and Islamabad suggest a tendency to synthesise the two approaches. Although some sources have reported a decision in favour of emphasising the search for a political solution, in reality a version of Fight-Talk-Talk formula appears to be in the offing.

It is a well-known and tested formula: while diplomats get busy, the combatants try to strengthen their side's bargaining position. Unfortunately, in the context of Afghanistan it is unlikely to work. The politico-military reinforcement strategy works when there exists a unity of purpose, a centralised leadership, organisational discipline, and coordinated command. These factors are absent among the Mujahideen. More importantly, the logic of war is stronger in Afghanistan than the logic of peace. In a plait which combines the two, the logic of war shall prevail. And what little opportunity remains of Pakistanis and Afghans getting out of this disastrous war will be lost.

Powerful vested interests, which are rooted variously in personal ambitions, profit taking, ideology, and strategic assumptions, support the logic of war. It is not fully appreciated that in Afghanistan's warrior culture, the guerrilla commanders constitute a new elite whose powers shall be threatened by war's termination. They are more likely to sabotage than reinforce the political half of the strategy. Continued military emphasis can serve as a means of sabotaging rather than reinforcing the political process. In this, they will have the sponsorship of financially and politically powerful elements in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and abroad.

The Afghan war has produced a lucrative international trade — in drugs, arms, and other contraband — which enriches the few at the expense of the majority of Pakistanis and Afghans. This influential mafia also regards an end to this conflict as harmful to its interests. Both the resistance and the "Jihad International Inc." experienced a certain decline in their power and profits the last two years of reduced warfare. Accelerated military campaign can only reinvigorate them. It is bizarre that these communities of gun and gold have found friends among men of God.

The Pakistan government and the Afghan resistance succeeded brilliantly, during 1987-1990, in snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. Now there is no victory in sight. But the same forces which prevented Pakistan from grasping the opportunities to reach a political settlement favourable to this country's long-term interests are still at work.

Pakistan's and, to a lesser extent Middle East's, Islamic parties and governments have developed ideological and political stakes in Afghanistan. Theirs are party and ideological agendas. They are not engaged in defining and serving Pakistan's or Afghanistan's national interests. Yet, they command constituencies and allies both inside the Afghan resistance and the Pakistani establishment. Typically, Jamaat-i-Islami's military camps Badr I and II have supplied volunteers for the recent battle; on April 4 its chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad visited Khost with the Hizb Islami leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar. Their call for an assault on Kabul runs counter to Ambassador Jamshed Marker's representations at the United Nations.

These ideological parties are after total victory, not a political settlement. The victory they seek is a mirage. But like most ideological groupings they do not recognise illusions. Moreover, mere continuation of war serves their interests better than its end can. They

are able to acquire weapons, train their cadres in irregular warfare, propagate among hapless refugees, and raise finances invoking jihad. Far from reinforcing the diplomatic effort they too are likely to sabotage it. Military escalation can only enhance their capacity to hold the national interest hostage to their ideologcal agenda:

The logic of war finds reinforcement in an unexpected quarter — senior echelons of Pakistan's army and, to a lesser extent bureaucracy. A few of these share the ideological proclivities of parties like the Jamaat-i-Islami and the Afghan Hizb Islami of Hikmatyar. But most are compelled by what they sincerely think are reasons of national security. In General Ziaul Haq's government, it was widely believed that through the Afghan Mujahideen's victory, Pakistan would gain "strategic depth". I first encountered this view in 1988, during a meeting with the late General Akhtar Abdur Rahman Khan. I argued then, as I would now, that this is a skewed idea; we are after a shadow which would lead us into timeless darkness.

If strategic depth is what we want, it should be viewed from a political, not military, perspective. Militarily, we cannot command strategic depth in Afghanistan unless we ourselves conquer and rule over it. Clients may promise it, but they cannot deliver for the simple reason that even if they take power they won't live forever. History and geography decide these things, not mortal individuals. In fact, the search for decisive military victory would bring the Afghan people more grief, and Pakistan more refugees, guns, drugs, and insecurity.

The Pakistan government and the Afghan resistance succeeded brilliantly, during 1987-1990, in snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. Now there is no victory in sight. But the same forces which prevented Pakistan from grasping the opportunities to reach a political settlement favourable to this country's long-term interests are still at work. If a political settlement is to be reached, these ought to be neutralised or, at least, their role and influence should be reduced. The idea of a military option has to be discredited before a political settlement can become a viable option. For this reason alone the achievement of a UN supervised ceasefire should be the first target of diplomacy, the foundation stone of the peace process in Afghanistan.

It may be an oft-broken ceasefire. Never mind! For its purpose will be to weaken the dialectic of warfare, and discredit the very idea of a military option. For, there is no military solution possible in Afghanistan. The Mujahideen are more divided now than before. Even the Jamaat Islami, which alone had a unified command, is now split; two weeks ago, fire-fights erupted in northern Afghanistan between the forces of Ahmed Shah Massoud and Jamaat leader Burhanuddin Rabbani. The resistance's primary financial sponsor, the United States, has taken its profits and withdrawn the major share of its investment in the Jihad. The Saudis and Kuwaitis can only follow suit.

More importantly, the ideologies at war — Marxism and Fundamentalism — are alien to Afghan culture. Afghanistan is a diverse and pluralistic society; centralising, unitary agendas cannot appeal to it. It is a country surrounded by other, bigger neighbours, who would not let one another shape its foreign and defence policies. We seem to forget the lesson we helped teach the Soviets.

changed.

AYAKHOMERI: When asked to rate what impact do you think Al-Zulfiqar's organisation had on the launching of the PIA? Ajmal Khattak said: "Bruno's men after their arrival in Kabul, soon after their arrival in Kabul, some different organisations under different names, after Zia's coup which anti-PPP workers fled the country due to foreigner's and made a big plan of sabotage. He also told me about the poems that he wrote. The ring upon the much world wide made I went to the meeting. Some of our people spoke up against the organisation which could operate from Kabul. Since I was under the discipline of my employer who had been here, I had intent to contact their leaders while I promoted to connect them. They did not contact their leaders and I contacted myself their friend. They thought I was not their friend whereas I sympathised with them and wanted to stop them from indulging in anti-political work. In fact Shahnawaz and Murtaza Bhutto were of authoritarian nature and did not accept any advice."

Q: How did you know about the launching of the PIA earlier?

A: I was sitting with some friends when Dr. Nasir came and told me that a PIA plane had been down in the hillsides and identity not known. When Bhutto and some were contacted they too did not know who had done it. Later they told us one brother there that the sons of Bhutto had shot down in the hillsides.

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Pakistan condemns Indian atrocities in held Kashmir

Federal cabinet reviews Afghanistan

F.P. Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD — The federal cabinet which met here on Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, expressed its grave concern over the imposition of stringent press and public laws in the Indian held Kashmir and condemned the Indian government for putting ban on press.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, adviser to prime minister on information, said that the cabinet reviewed at length the continued repression in occupied Kashmir, specially the gang rape of women by the occupation Indian forces and killing of innocent children.

Sheikh Rashid pointed out that the foreign secretary Sheryar Khan, now in New Delhi for talks, had been directed to take up the issue with the Indian government. "He has been asked to express Pakistan's grave concern over the killing of innocent Muslims," he said.

He said the cabinet also discussed at length the performance of Pakistan Railways and various options came under consideration to make it profitable after reducing the huge losses now the organisation was incurring. He said, it had been agreed in principle to give the sale of railways tickets to private companies. He said, it would be finalised after the return of railways minister Hazar Khan Bijrani from his visit to Bangladesh.

In reply to a question the adviser said that the cabinet had discussed the issue of increasing the charges of gas and electricity, but no decision had been made. He said the cabinet also approved the transfer of Rs. 110 million earned from Saver Raffle scheme, to the ministry of sports. "Now the ministry will handle this money and spend it for the promotion of sports by constructing new sports facilities."

Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said from now on it had been agreed that all the education degrees issued by the former communist countries would be acceptable in Pakistan and holders of these degrees would get equal opportunities in jobs.

The adviser said that the cabinet had approved a fine of 10 million rupees and five years imprisonment for those apprehended while fishing in Pakistan's economic zone.

Responding to a question, he said that the cabinet had not discussed the dissolution of Azad

Kashmir assembly. He pointed out that the prime minister had already set up a committee to look into the reasons that led to the dissolution of the assembly.

Sheikh Rashid said Pakistan has asked U.N. Secretary-General, Pérez de Cuellar, to step up his efforts for an early political solution of the Afghan problem. "The U.N. chief has been apprised of the latest contacts that Pakistan has made with Soviet Union, United States, Saudi Arabia and Iran to help resolve the Afghan crisis," he said, and added Islamabad had also made fresh moves to resolve the issue following mujahideen's victory in Khost.

He said the cabinet had reviewed all aspects of the Afghani problem following the fall of Khost. The cabinet, he said, was briefed on Pakistan's move of approaching the U.N. secretary-general for accelerating efforts for a political settlement of the problem.

"The liberation of Khost by mujahideen is a good news which can help accelerate efforts to find a solution of the problem," he said.

He said the U.N. secretary-general had been informed that Pakistan was maintaining constant contact with all the four countries concerning the Afghan problem, so (Cuellar) should make fresh efforts to resolve the issue."

Sheikh Rashid said Pakistan desired an early solution of the problem so that bloodshed could be stopped and the refugees could go back to their homes with honour and dignity after establishment of a broadbased government in Kabul.

He said it was gratifying for the government that the mujahideen did not resort to victimisation after liberation of Khost.

Replying to a question the adviser on information said, he had no knowledge whether the Jamaat

chief had gone to Khost with the permission of the government. He said he did not represent Jamaat-i-Islami chief in the press conference. Rather he only represented the government; therefore, he should not be asked about the J.I. chief. He said the J.I. chief's visit to Khost was not discussed by the cabinet.

Agencies add: Sheikh Rashid said the cabinet condemned the massacre of innocent Kashmiri youth, molestation of women, the crackdown against the press and arsoning by Indian security forces in the occupied Kashmir.

He said the cabinet noted that "the popular and indigenous freedom movement launched by the Kashmiri people is being suppressed by Indian authorities by taking extreme actions, which result in mass killings and excesses of the innocent held valley people."

He said the high-handed publication ordinance gave enormous powers to the Indian securitymen to suppress the voice for freedom of held Kashmir. It was against the basic human rights and particularly the right to know.

The cabinet considered various ways and means to enhance income of Pakistan Railways. It took notice of the fact that 1.60 lakh acre land belonging to the Railways remained forcibly occupied by land grabbers. This land, he added, could be released to generate more income to recover huge losses in the department.

The cabinet also considered to close down 60 uneconomical railway lines, improve the railways speed and to further expand the railway tracks. He said the cabinet also considered the need for improving the quality standard of catering services at the railway stations. The cabinet, he added, took notice of a large number of catering contracts which were given in the past on political grounds. Such contracts, which were running with substandard service, could be cancelled, he added.

He said there was also a proposal to expand the existing electric lines of Lahore-Khanewal to Samasata.

To a question, Sheikh Rashid said the decision to increase railways fare upto 12 per cent had already been taken at a previous meeting. He said matters relating to the welfare of the labours also came under consideration.

The cabinet extended the ban on hunting on wildlife, reptiles, birds and mammal for another three years. He said there, however, were no restriction on killing wild boar and jackal. The cabinet decided that the defaulters would be dealt with severely under the law, he said.

FRONTIER POST APR 07

Pakistan urges Cuellar to help resolve Afghan issue

Cabinet discusses situation after fall of Khost

By our staff correspondent

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan has urged the UN Secretary General to take immediate measures for a political settlement of the Afghan issue to avoid further bloodshed.

The fall of Khost to the Afghan Mujahideen, considered a significant military victory for the resistance, came up before the federal cabinet on Saturday.

Briefing newsmen, PM's Adviser on Information, Sheikh Rashid, said Pakistan wanted a political solution of the Afghan conflict and was prepared to contact Iran, Saudi Arabia, United States of America and the Soviet

Union for the purpose. "Our policy is to help Afghans amicably resolve the problem themselves without any foreign interference."

He told a correspondent that the Amir of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Qazi Hussain Ahmad's recent visit to Khost was not discussed in the cabinet.

He was satisfied with the fact that the Afghan Mujahideen did not indulge in loot and plunder.

Sheikh Rashid said Afghan refugees living in Pakistan would only return to their homeland if they were given the right of self-determination.

The News
APR 07

Call for an effective Pak role in Afghanistan crisis

ABBOTTABAD (PR)—Omar Asghar Khan, Chairman, Istiqlal Youth League and member National Working Committee, Tehrik-i-Istiqlal has called upon the government to play an effective role in bringing about an end to hostilities in Afghanistan so that the Afghan refugees in Pakistan can return to their homeland speedily.

He said with the reduction in assistance for the Afghan refugees from the United States and other western countries the burden of looking after the refugees was increasingly coming to fall on the government of Pakistan.

He said that given the precarious conditions of Pakistan's own finances as a result of reduction in aid inflows, Pakistan could ill

afford to look after the over three million refugees presently living in various camps in Pakistan.

Omar Asghar Khan said it was in Pakistan's national interest that peace was established in Afghanistan, and for this purpose the government should not hesitate to establish contact with the concerned parties and governments.

He further said since Pakistan was a signatory to the Geneva Accords, the government should take all possible steps to create a climate for an end to hostilities in Afghanistan as well as establishing brotherly relations with Afghanistan. Both Pakistan and Afghanistan could benefit a great deal, if normal relations were established between the two countries, he added.

The News
APR 07

ANP not to issue statements against Afghan policy

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR—The Awami National Party leadership has directed all of its Assembly Members and office-bearers not to issue any statement against the government's Afghan policy particularly after the fall of Khost city to Afghan Mujahideen as such statements could harm friendly relations with the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad.

A most reliable source told *The Nation* that most of the party MPAs, office-bearers and workers were disheartened from the Federal Government's involvement in Khost war but they were silent due to heavy pressure from Wali Bagh and Bilour House. The ANP leaders not even expressed concern over the fall of Khost to Mujahideen which is a great loss to the Afghan President Dr. Najibullah, once named as brother of the ANP chief Khan Abdul Wali Khan.

It may be reminded that not a single ANP leader or member excluding Wali Khan has issued Press statement condemning government's alleged involvement in the Khost war. Wali Khan in his statement two days ago after the fall of Khost only asked the government to find out a political settlement to the Afghan war instead of a military solution. It is recalled that the ANP leaders in the past broken away alliance with the Pakistan Peoples Party when the Afghan insurgents launched an attack on Jalalabad in March 1989 and its five Ministers quitted the official posts.

Similarly, the ANP MPAs, MNAs and office-bearers and active workers not allowed to criticise the water apportionment accord which is even criticised by the Jamaat-e-Islami leaders. A source holding a key position in the party at provincial level informed on condition of anonymity that heavy resentment found among the party workers against the water apportionment accord. He admitted that how the ANPs policies serving interests of a few persons including Provincial Ministers and its provincial President Begum Naseem Wali Khan.

Answering to a question the same source apprehended several losses to ANP in near future not only due to changes in its Afghan policy but all of its compromise on many provincial rights with the JI leaders. He further said that now it was clear that ANP found guilty in horse-trading on the eve of Senate polls which could be exploited very well by the ANP rival elements. He opined that ANP leaders should review its policies and should take its loyal and ideological workers into confidence, both on water apportionment accord and new Afghan policy.

NATION APR 09

Pakistan rejects Kabul's allegations of interference

Liberation of Khost secured by Afghan Mujahideen's own efforts

APP

ISLAMABAD—A Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman has firmly rejected as baseless the recent allegations by the Kabul regime, of Pakistan's interference in Khost, in a statement issued here Sunday.

The spokesman said that liberation of Khost was the fruit of concerted efforts by the Afghan mujahideen, launched with the popular support and their representative Shuras.

Responding to the Mujahideen's offer of general amnesty, the spokesman said that the Kabul troops surrendered in large numbers. On assuming control of Khost, the mujahideen commanders formed a Shura to administer the city, and organised disbursement of the much needed humanitarian assistance, he added.

The spokesman said that the mujahideen leaders and commanders deserve felicitations, on the admirable manner in which they had cooperated with each other to restore peace in the city and had treated the POWs in a humane way. There was no retribution and no killings. Demonstrating full respect for human rights, these POWs were being assured of full protection and necessary help. In this task, the Shura had appropriately requested assistance from the ICRC and the United Nations.

The Shura had also welcomed

outside observers to visit Khost, and witness the situation, he added.

The spokesman maintained that the continuing threat to the peace in Khost was the heavy aerial bombardment and scud attacks by the Kabul regime. Unmoved by the mujahideen victory at Khost, the regime had resorted to brutal attacks against the city, while making false allegations against Pakistan.

He said that in addition to a request for the despatch of a UN team to Khost, Pakistan had appealed to the UN Secretary General to use his influence to stop these attacks. The spokesman further said that Pakistan was confident that the liberation of Khost would greatly help the cause of a political settlement in Afghanistan, as it would galvanise peace efforts for a consensus, ensuring the establishment of a broad-based government in Kabul.

He recalled that on April 5, permanent représentative of Pakistan in UN once again renewed Pakistan's commitment to support UN Secretary General's efforts for a political settlement, that would enable over three million Afghan refugees to return to their homes in safety and honour. The resolution on the Afghan conflict was also vital for the peace and stability of the region, he added.

The News

APR 03

Qazi for Soviet-Mujahideen talks

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR--Amir Jama'at-i-Islami Qazi Hussain Ahmed has said that for the peaceful settlement of Afghanistan-issue and the establishment of Islamic and representative government there, talks should be held between Afghan Mujahideen and Soviet Union. He said that his party would not oppose such dialogues if it brought positive results for war-lorn Afghanistan.

He was addressing a news conference here on Monday after his return from freshly liberated area of Khost (Afghanistan) by Afghan Mujahideen. Jama'at Amir described the fall of Khost as one of the great achievements of Mujahideen saying that days were not far away when a stable government of Mujahideen would be set up in Afghanistan.

He dispelled the impression that Pak Army or Militia forces were involved in liberation of Khost and added that such rumour were baseless and being speculated by enemies of Afghan Jihad. However, he confessed that freedom-

fighters in a course of their courtesy with Afghans had taken part in the liberation of Khost.

Mr Qazi categorically denied that after the liberation of Khost, Mujahideen had plundered the wealth and property of local inhabitants and said that after conquering the garrison, they announced full amnesty for Afghan army according to him was an assurance on the part of Mujahideen to the people of rest of the country they were fighting for the cause of Islam and not to kill the prisoner.

He warned that certain groups on the direction of US were to create rifts between local people and Afghan refugees in Pakistan. He said trying to that such groups had also tried in the past to implement on their nefarious designs but they never succeed. Describing the aim of his visit to Khost he said that he went there to bring patch up between Mujahideen leader Gulbadin Hekmatyar and Jalaluddin Hakkani. In his claim he said that these arms were supplied from Karachi but Mujahideen cut down their supply line.

NATION APR 09

Achakzai slates policy on Afghanistan

F.P. Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD — Mehmood Khan Achakzai, chief of Pukhtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party, has decided to practically defend Najib government, if the forces from within Pakistan continued interference in Afghanistan.

Talking informally to newsmen at Parliament House on Sunday he said, "I will go to Qandhar if the war reaches there."

Achakzai, highly concerned over the alleged interference from Pakistan side in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, warned the government to immediately put an end to interference in the internal affairs of the neighbouring countries.

The participation of people of Pakistan in Afghanistan would divide Pukhtoons and bring the Afghan war into the territories of Pakistani, he said.

He alleged that visit of Khost by Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad was a blatant violation of the Geneva Accord. He exhorted that every Pakistani was bound by the agreement not to interfere in the Afghan war. "It is a matter between the Kabul government and so-called mujahideen to let them resolve their dispute," he added.

"If you allow somebody to fight on the side of Afghan mujahideen, how can you stop others to fight on Najib side," he questioned.

He lashed out at the government and alleged that it wanted to control Kabul directly or indirectly.

He scoffed at the statement of Jama'at's Amir Qazi Hussain Ahmad about Pan-Islamism and reuniting the borders between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

He (Qazi Hussain Ahmed) did not even recognise the Nexus river between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan.

He termed it utter madness to create enemies all around for nothing.

He alleged that Sikhs were being trained in Balochistan and he claimed that he could pinpoint places where they were being trained.

He urged the government to refrain from interfering in internal affairs of brotherly countries. "When you explode a bomb in Delhi or Lucknow you must expect similar reactions in Karachi or other cities."

He lamented that situation inside Pakistan was quite volatile and could easily be exploited by any external force for subversive activities.

FRONTIER POST APR 08

Pakistan to launch new initiative on Afghanistan

Soviet Union, US, China, Saudi Arabia and Iran to be contacted to seek peaceful settlement

By Aslam Sheikh

ISLAMABAD—Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan announced Monday that Pakistan was launching a new initiative to seek political settlement of the Afghan conflict.

Back here after his talks in the Indian capital, the foreign secretary readily agreed to answer a question on Afghanistan after his briefing on the outcome of India-Pakistan negotiations for the normalisation of their relation was over.

Mr Shaharyar Khan answered in the affirmative when asked whether Pakistan was taking some kind of initiative for a political settlement in Afghanistan. Elaborating he made the following points:

* The Initiative involves contacts and consultations with coun-

tries like the Soviet Union, Iran, Saudi Arabia, China and the US. The UN has already been approached for this purpose.

* Its objective is to embark on a path which may lead to a political settlement and ultimately the induction of a broad-based government in Kabul.

* He did not agree that this kind of initiative had also been taken before. In the past only Soviet Union once did make some contacts on its own. But such an exercise was not done by Pakistan. Geneva process was a different matter. Besides he seemed to be implying that there were new circumstances favouring such an initiative.

* The foreign secretary emphasized that Pakistan was not rigid about the form of electoral pro-

cess for the induction of a broad-based government. It could be traditional, conventional or any other form.

* The foreign secretary recognized that there could be no perfect solution. Here again he seemed to underline a certain flexibility in this process.

Shaharyar's observations on the subject came two days after the federal cabinet reviewed the latest developments in Afghanistan including a significant victory for the resistance groups in the form of fall of Khost. The cabinet also decided to approach UN secretary general to help seek a political settlement of the Afghan conflict to avoid further bloodshed.

Secretary General Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki will visit some important capitals for the purpose

Afghan issue can be resolved only militarily, says Qazi

From Our Staff Correspondent

PESHAWAR, April 8: Chief of Jamaat-i-Islami Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmed said here on Monday that the fall of Khost to Mujahideen has paved the way for them to conquer Kabul and reinforced the view that Afghanistan problem can be resolved only through military means.

Speaking at a news conference after his recent trip to Khost, in Paktia province, the Jamaat leader, however, said that if there was to be any political solution to the Afghan conflict it could only be through direct dialogue between the Mujahideen and the Soviet Union.

Regarding the controversy over his Khost visit in the National Assembly, he said, that in his view there were no boundaries between the Muslim States, and "we can move without passport or visa, wherever possible."

Qazi Hussain Ahmed said that three days mourning by the Najib regime following the fall of Khost showed demoralisation of Kabul Government "which cannot withstand the onslaught of the Afghan Mujahideen" on Kabul in not too distant a future.

He said like "our prediction" about the possibility of Soviet Union's retreat from Afghanistan and fall of Khost coming true, a military solution was also very much on the cards.

He dubbed as American propaganda stunt the view that chances of military solution of the Afghanistan issue had been diminished after Soviet withdrawal. "The United States does not want the establishment of a true Islamic state there," the JI chief said, adding that it was a conspiracy to deprive Mujahideen of the fruits of their victory after such long struggle.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed alleged that a particular tribe of the Kurram Agency supplied arms to the besieged Kabul forces in Khost before its fall.

He accused Peter Tomsen, special US envoy to Afghan resistance, of dividing the Mujahideen and creating misunderstanding between various groups.

The Jamaat leader outrightly rejected the propaganda that Pakistani Army had fought the battle on Khost.

Pakistan asked to accept Najib's proposal

Accused of involvement in Khost fight

From AMANULLAH

QUETTA — Afghan acting consul based in Quetta, Engineer Abdul Saboor, has asked the Pakistani government to accept the proposals of President Dr. Najibullah for restoration of peace in Afghanistan, this was stated by Afghan diplomat while talking to a group of journalists at his residence on Monday.

Engineer Saboor alleged that Pakistan army was involved in the fall of Khost valley. He added that Afghan groups made several attempts in past to capture Jalalabad, Khost and Kandahar, but Afghan armed forces frustrated their attacks. However, he conceded that Afghan opposition groups were then in control of Khost.

Engineer Saboor clarified that Khost was strategically not very important, therefore, Afghan government was not in a hurry to recapture it, rather it would wait

for proper time. He recalled that in past mujahideen had captured Kunduz, but Afghan forces recaptured it within few hours. Therefore, about Khost government would adopt efficient strategy keeping in view its closeness to Pakistan border.

The Afghan diplomat was of view that certain forces did not want to restore peace in Afghanistan to sabotage the peace mission of Dr. Najibullah, which he initiated from the Geneva meeting with moderate Afghan opposition groups and with followers of former King Zahir Shah. Similarly, he said that Dr. Najibullah also met leaders of Hizb-e-Wahdat Islami Mashad, Iran, to resolve the Afghan crisis through negotiation in consultation with all groups in the country to form a national shura. However, Engineer Saboor disclosed that representatives of Hizb-e-Islami of Gulbuddin

Hikmatyar group proposed to the Kabul government representatives during parleys at which Abu Khailid, a Palestinian leader was also present, that Afghan ruling party and Hizb-e-Islami were main forces in the country. Therefore, they should strike a deal but the Afghan government rejected the suggestion and called upon Hizb-e-Islami leaders that all opposition groups should be included in the accord to resolve the Afghan issue.

Engineer Abdul Saboor maintained that after the end of cold war regional countries, specially Pakistan and Afghanistan, should resolve their differences according to the spirit of the Geneva Accord. He urged the Pakistani government to respond positively to the proposals of President Dr. Najibullah so that misunderstanding between the two countries could be removed.

PPP leader demands provision of jobs to sacked Afghan refugees

By Hajj Zahur Ud Din

TANK — A Leader of PPP Tanks, Hajji Abdullah Khan, in a statement has appealed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Chief Minister of NWFP that the two thousand Afghan refugees employees whose services were terminated in the Holy month of Ramazan due to some unaccountable reasons have not so far been provided with alternative jobs. These people who are well-educated and were leading a fairly respectable life, have all of sudden been hurled into the clutches of a rampant unemployment due to the apathy and step-motherly attitude of the Afghan Refugees Administration. The deplorable thing is that they have been terminated in the holy month of Ramazan so that they might not be able to celebrate the festival of Eid. He has urged the government, therefore, to provide alternative jobs to these dejected people because a democratic order should serve its people.

Transfers should be withdrawn, Union demands:
WAPDA's Hydro Electric Central

Labour Union Tank Divisions' emergency meeting was held under the chairmanship of Mohd Abbas who is the divisional chairman of the Union. Various members of the Union addressed the meeting in which a great number of workers and leaders participated. While addressing the meeting, the divisional secretary Ubaidullah Khan expressed annoyance and deep sorrow at the uncalled for transfer of Supt. Mumtaz Khan, Supt. Moiud Abbas Khan and Supt. Dost Mohammad Khan. He strongly condemned and disapproved of the undue interference by certain MPA's and MNA's in the transfer cases of these government officials because such transfer are usually the result of political intrigues.

At the end of the meeting a unanimous resolution was passed by the Union in which it was earnestly demanded that the transfer orders of all the three superintendents be immediately cancelled, otherwise the Union members would be compelled to take action against the concerned authorities of WAPDA, who alone would be held responsible for the consequences.

The News

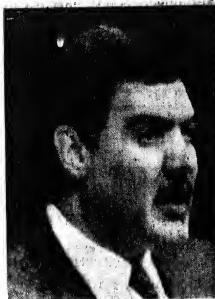
APR 10

USSR for political solution of Afghan issue: Qazi

By ASHRAF HASHMI

ISLAMABAD, April 9: Qazi Hussain Ahmed, Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami, who has recently returned from a visit to Khost, which fell to Afghan Mujahideen, has disclosed that he had strong indications that the Soviet Union was keen to resolve more than a decade old Afghan dispute and was even ready to associate the Afghan Mujahideen for a political solution of the problem.

Talking to *The Muslim* here on Tuesday, he suggested further probe of these indications according to which, he said, the Soviet Union was even prepared to sacrifice Dr. Najibullah and was ready to replace him by an interim government provided such an interim government was genuinely impartial and consisted of persons who had no desire to prolong their rule and were able to hold free and fair



elections in the country.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed said according to what he had learnt from his own reliable sources, the Soviet Union was ready to take into confidence the Afghan Mujahideen and would like that

PkSF urges its members to support Afghan govt

PESHAWAR—The Pakhtoon Students Federation (PkSF) has called upon its members to prepare themselves to fight on the side of the Afghan government against extremist elements backed by Pakistani Army.

In a statement, the PkSF Peshawar University President Himatayullah Mayar warned that the nationalist Pakhtoons would never allow their ancestral homeland of Afghanistan to be handed over to the Pakistani Punjabis. He claimed Pakistan's Punjabi rulers aimed at occupying Afghanistan and controlling its natural resources.

The PkSF leader argued that Pakistan's involvement in Afghanistan's affairs as happened recently in Khost was a violation of international law and Pakhtoon traditions. He urged all nationalist and progressive forces to voice their anger at such blatant interference. He praised Dr. Najibullah's conciliatory gesture and his efforts to restore peace in Afghanistan and the region.

the proposed interim government should have their backing and approval. Such a government, according to the reported Soviet proposal, should be composed of some notable scholars and non-political persons who had no ambition for power and no desire to take part in the election to be held by them.

The Afghan Mujahideen, he said, are responsive to the Soviet proposal but differ with her condition that the PDPA should also be allowed to contest polls. The Afghan Mujahideen, he said, were averse to the proposal and were not ready to give such a chance to a party against which they have been fighting for such a long time.

The Jamaat chief believed that a via media could be worked out as the Soviet proposal could be considered as the basis for a political dialogue.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed said the PDPA could be made acceptable to the Mujahideen with the removal of its top leadership. If fifty to sixty PDPA leaders are sent into exile, the party could be made eligible for contesting elections. This, he said, was his own perception as details in this respect could be worked out.

Replying to a question, the JI chief said the Mujahideen and their representatives were already in touch with the Soviet Union and these contacts could be enlarged to lead to formal talks between them.

When asked as to when he would visit the Soviet Union, he said although he had already been invited to visit the Soviet Union by some semi-official organisations, he has not finalised his visit.

Cuellar's special representative meets Afghan PM

PESHAWAR—Benan Sevan, the special representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Afghanistan, met Afghanistan's Prime Minister Fazle Haq Khalqiyar in Kabul Tuesday, Radio Kabul reported tonight in its main news bulletin.

The Radio quoted Benan Seven as saying that the United Nations was ready to help in relief and reconstruction activities in areas controlled by the government.

Radio Kabul also reported that meetings were held throughout Afghanistan Tuesday to condemn Pakistan's involvement in the attack on Khost and assure Dr. Najibullah of support in combating the aggression.

*The News
Apr 10*

The News APR 10

Pakistan's interference in Afghanistan to exacerbate regional tension

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—President Qaumi Inqilabi Party Pakhtoonkhwa, Afrasiab Khattak has apprehended that Pakistan's interference in Afghanistan would further exacerbate the prevailing regional tension. He said nobody would be able to stop the growing anarchy in Afghanistan from escalating into this side of the border.

In a statement Tuesday, the QIP president termed the existing foreign policy of the country as detrimental to national integrity, interests, peace and regional cooperation.

He felt Pakistan lacked long-term strategy pertaining to independent policy vis-a-vis super-powers, maintaining balance in relations with neighboring countries, and regional cooperation.

He criticised those advocating a military solution to the Afghan conflict and questioned the rationale behind opening up a new front on the Western border when

the country was already suffering due to Kalashnikov culture which, he argued, was the fall out of the Afghan war.

He warned that the Pukhtoons could no longer remain indifferent to the on-going bloodshed of their Afghan brethren.

The Phukhtoon leader also questioned the wisdom behind rejecting the friendship offers made by Dr. Najibullah amid heightened tension with India, particularly in the wake of attempts by Hindu fundamentalists to grab power in India.

Afrasiab Khattak underlined the need for regional cooperation between Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Afghanistan to provide them a common market.

Demanding immediate cessation of Pakistan's interference in Afghan affairs, the QIP leader called on the government to help promote a political solution of the problem and put an end to the attempts of turning Afghanistan into another Lebanon.

PMAP warns Afghan policy may backfire

F.P. Bureau Report

KARACHI — Abdul Hakim Mandukhel, secretary Pakhtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (Sindh), has warned that Pakistan's interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan would be disastrous for the country. He said that the chief of Jamaat-i-Islami, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, whom he described as "the imperialist agent" openly visited Khost which was a glaring example of the blatant interference.

He said that the fall of Khost was made possible by the interference of Pakistan army, and this would lead to the genocide of the Afghan people. He warned the Islamabad rulers that their hostile attitude towards the Afghanistan would

ultimately backfire.

He said that the "Punjabi imperialists" and war-mongers should refrain from getting involved in the conflict otherwise they would have to face dire consequences. He said that the Pukhtoon people would teach a lesson to the imperialist agents in Punjab who had imposed a war on the Afghan people in their lust for expansionism without bothering about the killing of the innocent people on both sides of the border.

He said that such a hostile policy would not be tolerated further. Under the cover of so called jihad the war-mongers wanted to achieve their nefarious designs. He demanded that the government should punish the J.I. leader on the charges of his involvement.

FRONTIER POST APR 12

'Mujahideen planning final attack on Kabul'

JEHADWAL (Afghanistan) (PPI)—Renowned Afghan leader and chief of Hizb-i-Islami Afghanistan, Gulbadin Hekmatyar has said that mujahideen are planning to launch a big and final attack on Kabul to root out the illegitimate puppet Najib régime for ever.

In an interview with the Pakistani journalists here late on Wednesday night, he said that local commanders on the analogy of Khost would finalise the strategy of offensive and implement it.

Asked about the role of various parties infatue attack on Kabul, Gulbadin clarified that parties would be having no role in the attack as such.

He disclosed that unimaginably large number of senior Kabul officers were continuously contacting mujahideen which proves that they had lost confidence in Najib government.

Asked about the role of Afghan interim government (AIG) in the Khost conquest, the Afghan leader said the paper AIG had neither any role in Khost victory nor would have any role in future offensives.

About the families of Kabul officers, he said many families of the Kabul officers were in Pakistan.

He pointed out that various hands overtly as well as covertly tried their level best to make mujahideen face a defeat in Khost to discourage them and later pressurise them to accept the so-called political solution drafted by them according to their designs for Afghanistan but by the grace of Almighty Allah and the spirit of jihad generated in the hearts of mujahideen their conspiracy failed badly.

He observed that the victory of Khost had given a great moral boost to mujahideen and they were fully prepared for ousting Najib.

To a question about the POWs, Hekmatyar said: "we arrested regular Kabul soldiers only and will soon hand them over to Red Cross. We allowed the local militia to go to their homes along with their families and Klashnikovs and

are treating the prisoners well."

To a question, he clarified that mujahideen did not kill a single soldier or citizen after surrender.

The team of journalists while on their way back witnessed militiamen moving towards Pakistan border along with their families and households in jeeps and wagons. They were also carrying small arms.

When one of the Pushto-knowing journalist stopped one of the wagons and asked two militiamen seated in it about the treatment of mujahideen with them after surrender, they said: "mujahideen did not even bother us after surrender, they rather allowed us to go anywhere we liked with our families."

Ahswering a question, Gulbadin said that the conquest of Khost had left the Hizb-i-Islam alone with 24 tanks, two helicopters, 6000 Klashnikovs, 600 anti-aircraft guns, heavy machine guns, 150 trucks and other automobiles, 200 wireless sets and one radio station.

Mujahideen take control of Jaji Maydan

The mujahideen of Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan took control of the Jaji Maydan district of Paktia province, reports Afghan News Agency (ANA).

The district was occupied by mujahideen after the besieged militia, numbering about 1200, fled to Malikhel in Kurram Agency. Mujahideen seized eight tanks, four DC cannons, two ZK-1 anti-aircraft guns and one machine gun.

Some 200 die-hard Communist families of the militiamen comprising 3000 to 3500 members reached Malikhel, Kurram Agency recently.

The families were received by the Shia tribesmen at the Pakistani soil. They have reportedly established contacts with the Pakistani officials and have requested for shelter.

Concern over Pak 'interference' in Afghanistan affairs

F.P. Report

MARDAN — Wisal Ahmed, chairman of DSF, Mardan division and Arshad Mehmood, chief organiser of DSF Mardan district, have expressed grave concern over what they called the interference of government of Pakistan in the affairs of the brotherly country of Afghanistan.

In a joint statement the DSF leaders said it was gross violation of the Geneva Accord and against all norms of good behaviour.

They also blamed the government for providing arms and ammunition to Gulbadin. They also took sharp notice of what they called indifference of the so-called nationalists who used to support Afghan revolution.

They alleged that IJI was making Punjab a peaceful zone while transforming NWFP into a depot of arms and ammunition.

CONCERN OVER LPG SHORTAGE: Haji Mohammad Gul Bangash, a social worker of Katlang, has expressed grave concern over the shortage of LPG at Katlang.

In a statement, he said that shortage of LPG in the holy month of Ramazan was source of great concern for the masses.

He drawn the attention of the relevant quarters towards ending the scarcity of LPG.

DEATH ANNIVERSARY: The death anniversary of Z.A. Bhutto was observed by the party office, said a press release.

The speakers paid rich tributes to their leader. They said that Bhutto had laid down his life for the poor working class and his sacrifices would be written in golden words. They vowed to continue the mission of Z.A. Bhutto.

Those who addressed the gathering included Zahir Shah, Abdul Ghafar Mayar, Taj Mohammad Khan, Iqbal Khan and Shaukat Ali Khan.

Resolutions passed at the meeting condemned the government

for removing Abdul Ghafar Mayar from the chairmanship of Mardan District Council, demanded withdrawal of all false cases against PPP leaders and working off agriculture loans. They also expressed grave concern over the 30 per cent increase in the prices of Sui gas and electricity.

In another resolution they demanded withdrawal of references against Benazir Bhutto and Asif Ali Zardari.

INCREASE IN PAY DEMANDED:

The government was asked to increase the pay of the government employees as the prices of all essential commodities have gone up several times.

This was stated by the speakers at a public meeting held at Katchery Chowk under the auspices of all non-gazetted employees. The meeting was presided over by Abdul Ali Khan and those who expressed their views included Mian Kifayat Ullah Kaka Khel, Khalil-ur-Rehman Khalil, Dilawar Khan, Mohammad Nabi and others.

The speakers condemned the government for its delaying tactics in the implementation of the recommendation of pay reform commission and pay committee.

Resolutions passed at the meeting demanded that all demands of the paramedics be immediately accepted, selection grade to the employees of district council, free licence of arms to the employees of local government, selection grade to the employees of municipal corporation, fixing Rs. 3,500 as the minimum pay, Rs. 400 p.m. as conveyance allowance, restoration of the recreation allowance, construction of 500 beds hospital and giving Mardan the status of a big city.

They also demanded that transfer of the employees should not be made on political basis.

ROAD REPAIR DEMANDED:

Khush Nabi, a social worker of

Dosehra village, has demanded the repair of Mardan-Nisatta road.

In a statement he said that the road was in a dilapidated condition and passage on this road was impossible.

SHORT CIRCUIT POLES: The residents of Rustam have expressed grave concern over the short circuit in the electric poles of the town. They have asked chief engineer (electricity) to immediately remove the fault.

GREETED: Amir Sultan Safi, advocate, chairman of PMAP Mardan district, has welcomed Arbab Hamayoon, Barister Ayub, Ikram Khan, Mohammad Khan Kaka and Khial Akbar Afridi, advocate for their joining PMAP.

In a statement, he said that PMAP was the real representative of Pukhtoons. He asked all the nationalists to join this party and to strengthen it.

ACCORD WELCOMED: Noor Mohammad Jadoon, vice-president of M.L. Takhi Bhai tehsil, has welcomed the Indus water distribution accord and said that this historic accord was the result of untiring and dedicated work of NWFP Chief Minister Mir Afzal Khan and Mian Nawaz Sharif.

He stressed the need for early construction of Pehur canal so that barren land of Swabi could get water.

STRIKE OBSERVED: Pen-down strike was observed throughout Mardan division as the call of the provincial leadership of All Pakistan Clerks Association.

Work remained suspended at the offices and the people suffered tremendous difficulties.

The striking clerk held a meeting and demanded the acceptance of their demands. They vowed to continue the struggle till the acceptance of their demands.

Those who addressed the meeting included Khalil-ur-Rehman Khalil, president of APCA Mardan district.

NATION APR 12

Mujahideen may also meet delegation

By ASHRAF HASHMI

Pak-Soviet parleys on Afghan issue after Eid

ISLAMABAD, April 13: Pakistan and the Soviet Union are to enter into what has officially been described here as "substantial bilateral negotiations" in an attempt to resolve the Afghanistan dispute and find a political solution.

A high-powered Soviet delegation, according to official sources, would visit Pakistan immediately after Eid to initiate the talks.

The initiative for such a political dialogue on Afghanistan first came from the Soviet Union. The Afghan cell which met here early this month under the chairmanship of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan reviewed the Soviet proposal in detail and finally decided to welcome it. Accordingly, Islamabad conveyed its agreement to the Soviet initiative and requested the Soviet Union to send its representatives for the proposed dialogue.

A formal reply to Pakistan's intimation, according to official sources, has not been received so far. It is, however, hoped that dates of these talks would soon be fixed and a Soviet delegation would arrive here some time by the end of this month.

The Soviet Union, according to these sources, has already expressed her keen interest in a political solution to the Afghanistan problem. It, however, wanted cessation of the ongoing military action in Afghanistan to create a congenial atmosphere



Afghan Mujahideen poke over unwanted loot of Leninist loots

Kabul rushes reinforcements

Heavy fighting in Logar

LOGAR, April 13: The Kabul regime has preempted the attack of Mujahideen in Logar province by sending a big force comprising tanks, APCs and infantry, reports Afghan News Agency.

Latest reports say that heavy clashes are taking place in different areas of the province including Mohammad Afsa district through which passes the main route from Kabul to Logar province.

Another purpose of the Kabul regime attack in Logar is to send reinforcements to Gardez which seems to be the next target of Mujahideen after the capture of Khost.

The Mujahideen are reported to have repulsed regime attacks

by inflicting heavy blows to the intruding forces of the Kabul regime but details could not be gathered immediately.

In Islamabad the Afghan Mujahideen sources on Saturday said that the Mujahideen have captured four security posts of strategic importance in Samangan province bordering Soviet Union.

According to Mujahideen sources the Afghan guerrilla started the operation with rocket attacks on the security posts near Aibak, the provincial headquarters, on April 10 and inflicted heavy losses on the Kabul regime forces.

In another report from Farah province fierce clashes took place between the Mujahideen

for the dialogue. It considered the military operations a major hurdle in promoting a politically negotiated settlement.

When asked as to which of the formula would form basis of the Pak-Soviet talks, Pakistani sources said nothing was fixed as the issue would be reviewed as a whole and all relevant proposals and suggestions would be discussed. The Soviet Union, they said, like Pakistan has an open mind to the problem and both sides were keen to find a way acceptable to all the parties.

They did not rule out the possibility of a direct contact between the leaders of Afghan Mujahideen and the Soviet delegation visiting Pakistan if the Soviet officials so desired.

They said the talks to be initiated in Islamabad might continue in Moscow with a return visit of an equally high-level officials delegation from Pakistan.

Pakistan, meanwhile, is understood to have started sounding Afghan leaders about the impending bilateral talks with the Soviet Union. Islamabad looked in agreement with the Soviet Union that in order to ensure a positive outcome of the dialogue, military operations in Afghanistan should be suspended as their continuation would impair their chances and provide justification to the Kabul regime to wriggle out of such a political move. The Afghan

Contd. Page 9 Col. 2

and Kabul regime forces near Dil Aram town on Kabul Kan-dahar highway on April seven.

Meanwhile Midia report said that the Soviet operators took part in the recently Scud attacks over Khost. According to a high-ranking military officer of the regime forces, who is cooperating with Mujahideen, some of the Russians launched Scud attacks over Khost.

The military officer informed the Midia dispatcher reporter to Kabul that more than 40 Scud missiles were launched during the Khost operation till first week of April. He said about 20 Scud missiles were fired from the missile's launching pads of Mazari Sharif while more than

Contd. Page 9 Col. 5

MUSLIM APR 14

Moscow accuses Islamabad of Geneva accord violation

By MOHAMMAD ZAHID

Soviet Union since the fall of Khost for the first time has accused Pakistan of further escalating the war in Afghanistan, Radio Moscow reported on Saturday night.

A Soviet foreign ministry spokesman in Moscow alleged that Islamabad had assisted Afghan opposition in their recent onslaught on Khost, which was a clear violation of Geneva accord, he said.

The spokesman stressed for all out efforts to resolve the crisis politically.

Meanwhile, President Najibullah said he would welcome efforts initiated by any one for bringing peace to Afghanistan. But would not allow any one to interfere in the internal affairs of his country.

"Afghans alone have the right to decide the future of their motherland," Najib said.

In an interview with BBC he said that about 5000 rebels' have been killed in the battle for Khost.

President Najib blamed bad weather and lack of reinforcement for defeat of Kabul regime's forces in Khost.

It is worth mentioning that an Afghan general Zahir Sulahmal, who surrendered to mujahideen in Khost, in a brief talk to the press in Miranshah recently, had attributed the same causes for the fall of Khost to mujahideen.

President Najib said that massive preparations were underway to retake the Khost.

He refused to give details about an Afghan government delegation which is currently in Geneva for talks with the mujahideen leaders.

President Najib also appealed to the United States to stop Pakistan from interference in the internal affairs of his country. His country, he said, had abided by the Geneva accords, signed three years ago. But again accused Pakistan of military involvement in the capture of Khost by mujahideen.

Pakistan has repeatedly denied

any involvement.

He dismissed suggestions that the fall of Khost would hasten a political settlement. It had created new reasons to intensify the war, he said.

Meanwhile according to ANA, the general commander of Hezb-e-Islami, Afghanistan, Engineer Faiz Mohammad, has said that the death toll of the regime forces in Khost fighting was about 350 while thousands of them were made captives.

In an interview with Afghan News Agency he said that only 100 mujahideen embraced martyrdom while around 300 sustained injuries during Khost operation. He put the regime casualties double the mujahideen figure.

Engineer Faiz Mohammad said that the fall of Khost has paved the way for the capture of Kabul. He was optimistic that the regime forces would not resist attack on Kabul.

FRONTIER POST APR 14

Pakistan welcomes Soviet initiative on Afghanistan

Foreign office says it can pave the way for a final solution; Afghan militants stress on military option not to distract Pakistan

By Farhan Bokhari

ISLAMABAD—The Foreign office reacted positively to the Soviet foreign minister's offer to find a negotiated settlement to the Afghan conflict by the year's end. The officials described the offer as "a very positive statement" which could pave the way for a final solution to the conflict.

Alexander Bessmertnykh was reported to have told the UN Secretary General in a letter that only a political solution could bring peace to Afghanistan. He was also quoted as saying that the Afghan issue should be resolved through negotiations by the end of the current year.

Debate among officials has intensified on promoting a political settlement since the mujahideen victory over Khost in South Eastern Afghanistan, two weeks ago. Pakistan has already asked the office of the UN Secretary General to also approach all other parties to the dispute (Iran, Saudi Arabia, USSR and United States) in an effort to add momentum to the Afghan dialogue, kept on the back burners since international attention was focussed on the Gulf war.

A senior official who spoke anonymously, said that the time was now right to engage in concerted diplomatic efforts to find a political solution.

Continued on Page back

The News
APR 15

Pakistan welcomes Soviet initiative on Afghanistan

Continued from Page 1

Asked if impediments could be expected in view of strong recent statements from the mujahideen calling for a military solution, the official responded by saying, "these statements must not detract us from seeking a political settlement." In recent days, other officials have expressed concern on fiery statements calling for a further push towards Gardez and even an attack on Kabul.

If Bessmertnykh's statement provides new grounds for further negotiations, this would come in

the backdrop of two important events. First, Pakistan has recently appointed Ashraf Kazi as the ambassador to Moscow, strengthening the top embassy slot with a diplomat well experienced with the Afghan conflict. Mr. Kazi played a leading role during the indirect UN-backed negotiations in Geneva.

Second, a high powered Soviet delegation is expected to arrive in Islamabad during the next two weeks to discuss the Afghan conflict with Pakistani officials, as a first step to find common grounds for further negotiations.



Leader of the Awami National Party, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, flanked by the Indian ambassador, C.N. Dixit (R) and the Afghan Consul in Peshawar, Qayum, at the Bacha Khan Peace Conference which opened in Peshawar on Monday.—F.P. photo by WAHEEDULLAH

Wali asks govt. to solve Afghan crisis through political means

Bacha Khan peace conference opens

By SYED BUKHAR SHAH

Glowing tributes were paid to the services of great Pukhtoon leader Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan popularly known as Bacha Khan by the speakers at the inaugural session of a two-day peace conference organised by the Awami National Party (ANP) at Nishtar Hall, Peshawar, on Monday.

The venue of the conference was tastefully decorated and the popular slogans of Bacha Khan were displayed at different places. The conference was attended besides the followers of Bacha Khan, who had turned up from various parts of the country, by the ANP leaders, MNAs, MPAs, Senators and provincial ministers, ambassador of India C.N. Dixit and consul-general of Afghanistan, Qayyum Khan.

Inaugurating the first session of the Bacha Khan peace conference, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, Rahbar-e-Tehrik of the ANP, said that Bacha Khan had always sought solution of problems through negotiations and had declared that no problem could be solved through war. The late red shirt leader, he said, had termed Afghanistan war, a conflict between the superpowers from the very beginning and which now every person had realised. He said Afghan war was not a jihad but was being fought for gaining power. He expressed concern over the massacre of Afghans and said it was very strange that the problem was being solved in Islamabad.

Wali Khan said the weapons meant for distribution among the Afghan mujahideen, were now being used in Pakistan. He said the American weapons had always been used against Muslims throughout the world. In this connection, he cited the example of Iraq, Kashmir and Punjab where American arms were being used against the Muslims. He also alleged that the arms were also being supplied to Sri Lanka through Pakistan. Amer-

ica, he said was also opposing the formation of a fundamentalists' government in Afghanistan, and added that the Americans also came in the Gulf to occupy the oil wealth of Arabs and to protect Israel. He said that the U.S. had removed from its way some people in Pakistan also after they had accomplished their (American) designs. He demanded of the government to solve the Afghanistan problem through political means and stop bloodshed of Afghans.

Wali Khan said Bacha Khan had rendered his life for a mission which was fulfilled during the life of his followers. He said the imperialists and colonial powers were playing their game for the last 300 years and the British after quitting this region, had made America responsible to work against the people of this land. He said he would also publish a letter of an American senator which he had written regarding the American interests in this region.

The Indian ambassador, in his speech, paid rich tributes to the services of Bacha Khan which he rendered for humanity. His services, he said, would be remembered for ever in the history. Bacha Khan, he said, had always preached peace and added that the peoples of India and Pakistan were also demanding the same and stressed that both the governments should work for it.

The Afghan consul Qayyum read out the message of the president of Kabul regime, Dr. Najibullah, on the occasion. He, on behalf of Dr. Najib said that Bacha Khan wanted to establish peace throughout the world but regretted that Afghans were still being martyred in his country. He alleged that Pakistan was interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and had used its guerrillas against the Afghan army during Khost fighting. He said the Kabul government wanted a political solution of

the crisis and added that nobody could solve this problem through guns. He said "we wanted better relations with our neighbouring countries otherwise we could teach a lesson to our opponent, Pakistan." He appealed for an immediate end to bloodshed of Afghans.

Malik Qasim, president Muslim League (Qasim group) speaking on the occasion, deplored bloodshed of Afghans. He said the superpowers had always shed the blood of Muslims for their own interests. He said America was now calling the Afghan mujahideen as smugglers after accomplishing its designs in Afghanistan. He cited the example of Iraq and Kashmir. He said peace could not be restored in the world due to the dual policies of the superpowers. He asked the people to remove their differences for the establishment of peace and get themselves informed about the dual policies of superpowers, otherwise, he said, the coming generations would never forgive them for their this mistake.

Malik Qasim said if both Pakistan and India would not resolve their mutual differences themselves, the superpowers would solve them in accordance with their own (super power) interests, which would not be in favour of either of the countries.

He also paid tributes to the ANP for taking action against the two of its MPAs who indulged in horse-trading and said that the people should also work against such politicians who were constantly changing their loyalties for their own interests.

The conference was also addressed by Tariq Mehmud, MQM minister from Sindh and Farid Khan Toofan, provincial minister for irrigation and public health engineering. Farid Toofan said Bacha Khan had rendered sacrifices for the humanity and asked the people to follow his footsteps for the achievement of their rights.

FRONTIER POST APR 23

A solution to Afghan war?

Pakistan is said to be ready now for a political solution to the simmering Kabul-versus-mujahideen war in Afghanistan and is about to embark on multilateral diplomacy to obtain an international consensus aimed at a broad-based government in Kabul through elections under the UN auspices. Islamabad is preparing to hold discussions with the Soviet Union, Iran, Saudi Arabia and China on the subject with a brief that would constitute a departure from the earlier policy of a military solution in Afghanistan. The change in the thinking of Islamabad has been noticed after the mujahideen victory at Khost. It has no doubt come about following a reassessment of the situation in the ISI and the Presidency, the two centres of power with respect to the implementation of Pakistan's Afghan policy. This reassessment is said to be based on the long overdue evaluation of the mujahideen politics and the rapidly changing situation in the refugee camps. The refugee camp administration has recently fired a number of NWFP employees looking after the refugees, an indication of the fact that former levels of international financial support for the camps have fallen off and the pressure on the Pakistani exchequer is becoming gradually unbearable. It has also been realised that, despite the victory at Khost, the mujahideen capacity to win the final battle against Kabul is seriously curtailed by their internecine quarrels. In this

process of reassessment, the voice of the Afghan Interim Government in Peshawar has also become freer and is no longer dominated by the dictates of a military solution.

Pakistan desperately needs a solution to the Afghan war after the Gulf war and the changed perspective of the regional powers. Saudi Arabia's commitment to the mujahideen has changed. Iran's efforts to normalise its relations with the Arab states has defused the Gulf tensions that were transferred to the 'jehad' against the Kabul government. Iran has initiated a dialogue with Dr Najibullah, thus tending to isolate the policy being pursued in Islamabad. After Jamaat chief and member of parliament Qazi Hussain Ahmed's visit to Khost, the isolation has increased because of Qazi Sahib's pro-Saddam role during the Gulf war. The change of policy in Islamabad will serve to bring about a better co-ordination between the Pakistan government and the United Nations which has been insisting on the repatriation of the refugees. This repatriation will be delayed at great cost to Pakistan as the international financial commitments made for the reconstruction of Afghanistan after the war are overtaken by events elsewhere on the globe. Pakistan's involvement in the Afghan war was caused by the presence of the refugees on its soil; their repatriation remains Pakistan's topmost priority. The sooner this priority is recognised the better.

FRONTIER POST APR 26

Pakistan condemns Scud attack

ISLAMABAD (APP) — Pakistan has condemned the mass destruction caused by Kabul regime's Scud missile attack on the town of Asadabad.

Pakistan's permanent representative at the United Nations, Jamshed Market, in a letter to Secretary-general, Perez de Cuellar said that such attacks "directly affect Pakistan." He said that following the attack on Asadabad hundreds of injured Afghans and their relatives have started arriving in Pakistan's border towns and hospitals."

He said that Pakistan condemned the destruction caused by the criminal use of mass destruction weapons against the Afghan population.

He said according to preliminary reports, two Scud missiles hit the centre of town, killing more than 300 civilians and injuring over 700 persons.

Beg briefs Nawaz on Kashmir, Afghanistan

F.P. Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD — The Chief of Army Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg called on the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at the P.M. House on Monday. It is believed that in the meeting overall law and order situation in Sindh was reviewed with special emphasis on the rising incidents of dacoity and kidnapping in interior Sindh.

The meeting lasted for three hours. There are indications that the matters relating to national defence and situation in Afghanistan and Kashmir also figured in the talks.

FRONTIER POST APR 23

Diplomatic offensive to settle Afghan conflict shortly

From Diplomatic Correspondent

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan is expected to shortly undertake senior officials level discussions with Moscow, Teheran and Riyadh in pursuance of its diplomatic initiative for a comprehensive dialogue to settle the Afghan conflict, a foreign office spokesman said here on Wednesday.

High-level contacts with China and the United States are also in the offing, it was further learnt. China was not included in the original list of countries Pakistan wanted to consult for its peace move, but for Islamabad's special relationship with Beijing its inclusion is said to have been necessitated.

A director of the foreign ministry left here on Tuesday for Teheran, who would possibly also visit Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, a Saudi official is already in Pakistan for discussions with the Afghan interim government leadership in Peshawar.

Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to promoting a political settlement of the Afghan conflict, the spokesman said that in the context of its peace initiative Pakistan has had already several exchanges with the United Nations secretary general and his representative in New York and Islamabad. Pakistan is also in constant touch with the AIG leadership, he added.

However, the spokesman has contradicted a press report that direct talks between Islamabad and Kabul are expected to take place later this month in Geneva.

He termed the report as "fabrication" and possibly part of "disinformation to cause confusion."

Quoting "reliable sources" a Lahore-based paper had said that at the talks, Pakistan delegation was to be led by the former Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief, Gen. Hameed Gul. These talks were being opposed by the AIG president, Prof. Sibghatullah Mujaddadi, the paper had further said.

Pakistan's diplomatic peace initiative was announced early this month soon after the fall of strategically important border city of Khost to mujahideen. This is the Afghan freedom fighters' first major victory against the Kabul regime and is said to have given them some leverage in seeking peace. But, Kabul has responded with equal vigour by launching a Scud attack on mujahideen-controlled Asadabad city of Kunar province, killing hundreds of civilians.

Kabul is also said to have turned down Islamabad's request to stop hitting Khost with missiles, in return for a similar halt by the Afghan mujahideen in their rocket attacks on Kabul. The Pakistani offer was conveyed to the Kabul government through the United Nations, it was learnt.

Pakistan foreign office has, however, denied having made any such offer, only saying that "we are opposed to hitting the civilian targets."

Diplomatic observers believe that Islamabad's offer of bilateral

moratorium on missile attacks could result in shifting of the AIG headquarters to Khost, which Kabul ruler, Najibullah should not possibly accept.

These observers are also of the view that in the recently held meeting of the Afghan Cell, Pakistan government decided to totally freeze all efforts being made, officially or unofficially, for a military solution to Afghan issue and go all out for a political settlement through diplomatic and political channels.

Should Moscow come to trust Islamabad's new direction, these observers said. It can ask Najibullah to step aside in favour of a broad-based government with the help and guidance of the United Nations.

Political circles in the Capital believe that Pakistan cannot afford to remain indifferent to oppression being let loose by Indian troops on the Muslim population in held Kashmir. It would like the "fires in Afghanistan to die down" so that it can devote its political and diplomatic energies exclusively to Kashmir issue.

Civilian government in Islamabad is already accused of being "soft" on Kashmiris struggle, but that is not true in view of the emerging reports that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is himself going to embark upon a high-profile diplomatic offensive that might take him to the United Nations and other international forums like the Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Soviet expert on Afghan affairs due next month

ISLAMABAD, April 26: The Soviet Union has informed Pakistan that their top man of Afghan affairs Mr. Kozyrez will shortly visit Islamabad for talks on Afghan issue, to carry forward the process started by UN Secretary General's personal representative Benon Sevan, it was learned here, on Saturday.

The Secretary General has sought detailed report from his personal representative, who has already completed his consultations in Islamabad, Kabul, Moscow, and Tehran. According to reliable sources the Soviet diplomat will visit Islamabad sometime next month.

By OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Office sources say that while Pakistan is eager for early resolution of the Afghan conflict it has no ready proposals to be made in this respect.

Elaborating they say that Pakistan strongly feels that the United Nations should actively involve itself for a political settlement of the Afghan issue, adding that Pakistan's peace initiative is mainly confined to creating a conducive environment, and that its current consulta-

tions in various world capitals are primarily meant to put the Afghan issue on the front burner.

Pakistan believes that the added dimension which the United Nations has acquired as a result of its role in the Gulf war, can help it to play an enhanced role in the war-torn Afghanistan.

According to the sources Pakistan would like to listen to the Soviet envoy, and has no plan or specific formula to offer for the resolution of the crisis.

According to sources, Germany, Japan and other donor countries are also attaching new conditions for assistance to Afghan Mujahideen and refugees in line with the Americans action, creating an added urgency for Islamabad to seek solution of the Afghan conflict.

Pakistan condemns Scud missile attack

ISLAMABAD April 23: Pakistan has condemned the mass destruction caused by Kabul regime's Scud missile attack on Sunday on the town of Asadabad.

Pakistan's Permanent Representative at the United Nations Jamsheed Marker in a letter to Secretary General Perez de Cuellar said that such attacks "directly affect Pakistan". He said that following the attack on Asadabad hundreds of injured Afghans and their relatives "have started arriving in Pakistan's border towns and hospitals". He said that Pakistan condemned the destruction caused by the criminal use of mass des-

truction weapons against the Afghan population.

He said according to preliminary reports, two Scud missiles on Sunday hit the centre of town, killing more than 300 civilians and injuring over 700 persons.

Jamsheed Marker said that besides destroying hundreds of houses and shops the missiles had completely devastated Asadabad bazar. He said since the liberation of Khost, the Kabul regime had intensified Scud attacks and aerial bombardment on Mujahideen controlled town and other civilian centres.

He said this month more than 40 Scud attacks and numerous aerial bombing raids were conducted against Khost. He said the city was bombed even on Eidul Fitr, the day of rejoicing for Muslims all over the world.

He said the use of mass destruction weapons against the Afghan population illustrated regime's desperation and damaged the prospects for a political settlement in Afghanistan.

He urged the United Nations Secretary General to help halt the foreign correspondents covered every facet of Mujahideen victory and administration in Khost. They did not find any evidence in support of Kabul's baseless charges.

He said Kabul regime's Foreign Minister had falsely charged the Mujahideen with mistreating the prisoners of war. He said from the Security Council.—APP

regime's allegation of Pakistan's

involvement in the Mujahideen

operations to liberate Khost.

He said that Mujahideen com-

mmanders had invited International

Committee of Red Cross (ICRC)

and foreign correspondents

immediately on surrender by

Kabul regime's garrisons in Khost.

He said on the contrary, the Scud

attacks and aerial bombardment

by the Kabul regime complicated

the task of shifting the POWs, espe-

cially those needing medical care

to safer places.

Pakistan's Permanent Representa-

tives requested that his letter be

circulated as an official document

of the General Assembly and the

Security Council.—APP

Pak involvement in Khost operation criticised

Pakistan reiterates commitment to peaceful Afghan settlement

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR.—Leaders of Pukhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PMAP) have strongly criticised the government for its undue interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and demanded immediate end to it.

The PMAP leaders were addressing a gathering at Yaqar-e-Shabtakhan in Qissa Kiwan Bazaar, Peshawar in connection with the anniversary of martyrs of Qissa Kiwan.

Speaking on the occasion provincial PMAP president

Mukhtar Yusufzai, Arbab Hu- mayun, Shaukat Khan and Khurshid Afridi accused the Pakistani army of involvement in Khost operation and alleged that the ISI officials based in Peshawar and Quetta were now investigating Mujahideen for an attack on Kabulabad, Qunduz and other major cities of Afghanistan.

The PMAP leaders expressed the hope that Kabul regime forces will foil all attempts of the "counter revolutionaries" and will recapture Khost.

The leaders offered floral wreath among Muslim League leaders at

meanwhile, Arbab Mujeeb has been appointed the party organiser for Peshawar district and an organising committee comprising Ahmad Jan, Kundal Advocate Shabeban Mukarram Khan, Mohammad Khan and Mumeneen Khan was also constituted.

Pay no heed to rumours. The NWFP minister for law and parliamentary affairs and member central executive council of Pakistan Muslim League, Ali Afzal Khan Jadoon, has said that discussion

should not worry about rumours, factions and dissension in the party.

However, it should be their obligation to maintain unity and help strengthen the party. The members will fall all kinds of the "counter revolutionaries" and will recapture Khost.

The leaders offered floral wreath among Muslim League leaders at

■

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Bureau Report

provincial level, like other political parties of the country, was a natural phenomenon and did not harm the norms of democracy.

Addressing the local Muslim

League workers in an Eid Milad

Shabeban Mukarram Khan, Mo-

hammad Khan and Mumeneen Khan

was also constituted.

Pay no heed to rumours. The

NWFP minister for law and par-

liamentary affairs and member cen-

tral executive council of Pakis-

tan Muslim League, Ali Afzal Khan

Jadoon, has said that discussion

should not worry about rumours,

factions and dissension in the

party.

However, it should be their obli-

gation to maintain unity and help

strengthen the party. The mem-

bers will fall all kinds of the "counter

revolutionaries" and will recapture

Khost.

The leaders offered floral wreath

among Muslim League leaders at

■

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD.—A spokesman of Foreign Office has contradicted a news item appearing in a section of the press, regarding Pak-

Afghan talks in Geneva later this month, says a press release.

The spokesman denied the

press report as a fabrication.

The spokesman categorically denied

any plans for direct contact with

Kabul. He did not rule out the

possibility of disinformation, de-

signed to cause confusion.

The spokesman reaffirmed

Pakistan's commitment to pro-

moting a political settlement of

the Afghan conflict.

spokesman categorically denied any plans for direct contact with Kabul. He did not rule out the possibility of disinformation, designed to cause confusion. The spokesman reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to promoting a political settlement of the Afghan conflict.

Discussion at senior officials' level were also expected to be held shortly with Moscow, Tehran and Riyadh, the spokesman added. In this context the AIG remained in contact with the AIG leadership, the spokesman said.

Pakistan asks Cuellar to help stop Kabul attacks

UNITED NATIONS, April 25: Pakistan has brought to the attention of the United Nations the Kabul regime's "barbaric" Scud attack against the Afghan city of Asadabad on Sunday, killing and injuring hundreds of civilians.

In a letter to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar released Wednesday, Ambassador Jamsheed Marker again urged him to use his influence in stopping such attacks that damage the prospects of a political settlement in Afghanistan.

"The government of Pakistan condemns this criminal use of weapons of mass destruction perpetrated by the Kabul regime against the Afghan population," Marker said. "Such acts directly affect Pakistan, producing fresh flows of Afghan refugees."

Since the liberation of Khost by the Afghan Mujahideen on March 31, the ambassador said,

Pak-Afghan talks in Geneva on 28th

From Shamim Shahid

PESHAWAR—In a bid to reach a political settlement to the protracted Afghan problem, first ever direct talks between high-level officials of Pakistan and Afghanistan will start in Geneva on April 28, *The Nation* reliably learnt here on Tuesday.

However, the Afghan Interim Government President Prof. Sibghatullah Mujaddadi has attributed the direct talks between the two countries against the interests of Afghan people.

Reliable sources said that Pakistan delegation will be headed by former chief of Inter Services Intelligence, Gen Hameed Gul. The Afghan delegation in the said talks may be represented by Gen Ishaq Tokhi, Adviser to President Najib, Mr Ghulam Farooq Yaqoobi, Minister for National Security and Firdaus Khan Mohmand.

The Peshawar-based Afghan Consulate when contacted for further details said that Afghan Government is ready for talks with both Pakistan and Mujahideen to resolve the Afghan problem.

It may be mentioned here that the reported direct talks between Pakistan and Afghan authorities are first of its nature since December 27, 1979.

Meanwhile, the AIG said that they have a right to lodge a protest with the Pakistan Government on holding talks with the Najib Government representatives. AIG was of the view that Afghan people could not accept any sort of accord between Pakistan and Najib Government.

the Kabul regime has intensified Scud attacks and aerial bombardment against Mujahideen-controlled towns and other civilian centres. The letter gives details of Scud attacks, saying Khost was bombed even on Eid-ul-Fitr.

The Pakistan ambassador also rejected earlier allegations by Kabul regime's Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil that Pakistani personnel were involved in the Mujahideen operations against Khost. After the liberation of the garrison city, he said, the Mujahideen commanders Shura had invited Red Cross personnel and foreign correspondents. "Their reports cover every facet of the Mujahideen victory of Khost and the Mujahideen administration of the city, thus providing vivid factual refutation of Kabul's baseless charges."

Marker also denied the charge

that the prisoners of war were mistreated by the Mujahideen, saying Red Cross officials remained actively engaged in providing humanitarian assistance in the area, including the handling of POWs.

"I... reaffirm to you the resolute commitment of the government of Pakistan to promote a political settlement of the Afghan conflict and our readiness to cooperate with the peace efforts by you," Marker told the UN chief.

The Secretary-General has appealed to all Afghans to seek a political, not military, solution to the 12-year-old conflict. He has intensified UN efforts to promote a settlement through his personal representative, Benon Sevan, who is now in Tehran after visits to Islamabad and Kabul.—APP

Afghan planes violate Pak airspace

From MOHAMMAD RIAZ QUETTA, April 26: The Afghan Air Force four MIG planes violated Pakistan airspace at 4.20 a.m. Friday and pounded in the area of Kochi hill top near border town of Chaman, causing damage to mud houses, says a reliable source.

The four planes violated air-space at 5.20 a.m. again and hit the spinboldak area. No further details were made available.

MUSLIM APR 27

APR 25

The News

NATION APR 24

Beg denies Pak involvement in Khost

By our correspondent

LAHORE—Chief of the army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, has said that Pakistan had no role in the Mujahideen victory in Khost and Kabul's allegations of Islamabad's involvement in the war were baseless.

He said the Pakistan army played no direct or indirect role in the battle for Khost.

Talking to a journalists at wedding here Wednesday, General Beg said he saw no immediate threat of war.

Yet, he said, Pakistan army was ready to meet any eventuality. "We insha allah will not disappoint the nation when the time to defend the homeland comes," he said.

He said the Pakistan army had the capability of facing the enemy on any front. When asked about the situation in Kashmir, he said: "Please address the President." The President was also present at the wedding.

The News

APR 24

Mujahideen capture Khost

UNDATED, March 31: Afghan Mujahideen on Sunday captured the strategic garrison city of Khost after 17 days of intense combat, Mujahideen sources said.

Khost fell after heavy fighting at the airport, around the city prison and in the fortress-like Matoun sector, said Amin Wardak, one of the main resistance commanders, and Naim Majrooh, Director of the Afghan Information Center.

The two men said they got their information from radio messages sent by representatives of Commander Jalaluddin Haqqani, chief of Guerrilla operations at Khost.

Earlier the Information Minister of Mujahideen government Najibullah Lafrarie, said rebels had captured Khost airport AFP

Mujahideen claim downing two Kabul planes

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR, March 31: Two Kabul transport planes carrying supplies for the besieged Khost garrison are reported to have been shot down by Afghan Mujahideen on Saturday night. Besides, 19 more security outposts around the strategic garrison have reportedly been captured.

According to Mujahideen sources, heavy artillery firing was heard from across the borders over Khost.

Meanwhile, five Mujahideen were killed when a Kabul Scud Missile hit their ambulance in Zani Khel near Sara Ghundai. Another Scud blew up a pick-up killing all its occupants whose number was not available.

Another report says the Kabul tanks and heavy artillery made inroads into the Mujahideen held two major military posts

DAWN APR 01

Mujahideen planning attack on Kabul

JEHADWAL (Afghanistan), April 4: Renowned Afghan leader and Chief of Hizb-i-Islami, Afghanistan, has said that Mujahideen are planning to launch a big and final attack on Kabul to root out the illegitimate puppet Najeeb regime from Afghanistan for ever.

In an interview with the Pakistani journalists here late Wednesday night he said that the commanders of local Mahaz on the analogy of Khost will finalise the strategy of offensive and implement it.

He disclosed that a large number of senior Kabul officers were continuously contacting Mujahideen which indicated that they had lost confidence in Najib government.

About the families of Kabul officers he said many families of the Kabul officers were in Pakistan.

He said the victory of Khost has given a great moral boost to Mujahideen and they are fully prepared to oust Najeeb regime from Afghanistan.

To a question about the POWs, Mr Hikmatyar said "we arrested regular Kabul soldiers only and will soon hand over them to Red Cross. We allowed the local militia

to go to their homes along with their families and kalashnikovs and are treating the prisoners well".

To a question he said that Mujahideen did not kill a single soldier or citizen after they surrendered.

The team of journalists while on their way to Khost saw militiamen moving towards Pakistani borders along with their families and house-hold goods in jeeps and wagons, they were also carrying small arms.

When one of the Pushto knowing journalists stopped one of the wagons and asked the militia men about the treatment of Mujahideen with them after surrender, they said Mujahideen did not even bother them after surrender. They rather allowed them to go anywhere with their families and also permitted them to take with them their arms in accordance with tribal traditions.

Answering a question, Mr Gulbaden said after the conquest of Khost Hizb-i-Islami alone got 24 tanks, two helicopters, 6000 kalashnikovs, 600 anti-aircraft guns, heavy machine guns, 150 trucks and other automobiles and 200 wireless sets and one radio station.—PPI

DAWN APR 05

Pakistan steps up search for peace in Afghanistan

Official to visit Saudi Arabia and Iran next month before talks with Moscow

By Farhan Bokhari

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's government will send a senior foreign office official to Iran and Saudi Arabia next month, to seek wider support for a political solution to the continuing Afghan war. Islamabad's contact with Tehran and Riyadh, two very important players, comes amidst a growing consensus that only a political solution can now end the 12 year long bloody war, raging across Afghanistan.

The Secretary General for foreign affairs, Mr Akram Zaki, in an interview, told The News on Monday that the meetings in Saudi Arabia and Iran may precede a

meeting with Soviet officials next month, either in Islamabad or Moscow. These contacts come in the backdrop of earlier reports that Pakistan would once again intensify contacts with important players, namely, United States, Soviet Union, China, Saudi Arabia and Iran to seek fresh support for an Afghan political settlement.

In response to a question on Pakistan's preference for the future of Afghanistan, Mr Zaki said that Islamabad was only interested in seeking a broad-based representative government in Kabul, so that refugees could return home in peace. However, he added that any proposal that included President Najibullah would not work

because it would be unacceptable to the mujahideen.

Zaki reaffirmed what many officials have been saying privately, that a military solution to the conflict is not feasible. "The military road is a barren road, both for us and the mujahideen," he replied when asked to explicitly state Islamabad's preference for a political rather than a military solution.

Since the mujahideen victory over Khost, many officials and Western diplomats have said that a realistic assessment of Afghanistan shows that neither of the two sides (mujahideen and Kabul regime) have been able to

Continued on Page back

Afghan issue: Pak envoy for Riyadh

From Our Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD—In the first exploratory move to sound out Pakistan's allies on a political solution to the Afghan war a senior Pakistani diplomat is leaving for Tehran and Riyadh.

Diplomatic sources said that Riaz Mohammad Khan, the Director-General for Afghanistan at the Foreign Office is travelling to Iran and Saudi Arabia to sound out these countries positions on the prospects of a future settlement in Afghanistan. After this visit, the next port of call for Pakistani diplomats is expected to be Moscow.

This will be Pakistan's first major diplomatic initiative since the Geneva Accords were signed and follows the decision taken at last month's meeting of the Afghan Cell that all-out efforts would be made towards exploring the possibilities of a diplomatic solution.

The visit follows the Mujahideen victory at Khost last month, which has broken the two-year old military stalemate on the ground. At the same time the UN's Secretary-

General's Special Representative Benon Sevan has also been visiting Saudi Arabia, Iran and the Soviet Union towards pushing forward UN efforts to try and achieve a regional consensus on the need for a political solution between the five concerned countries Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia and China.

Pakistani officials stressed that Islamabad will not be advocating any of the many plans on the table about how a settlement could be reached, but would rather be sounding out its allies on how they see recent developments in Afghanistan. Officials also said that it was only the Afghans themselves who could bring about a solution to the 12-year old war.

However, the new diplomatic initiative, which has the full backing of the ruling troika will be an important signal to Kabul and the international community that this time Pakistan is serious about a political solution. This first round of visits by senior Pakistani diplomats are expected to be followed up with later trips by the Secretary-General of the Foreign Office.

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Pakistan steps up search for peace in Afghanistan

Continued from Page 1

achieve the kinds of military successes that would settle the conflict, once and for all.

Pakistan's role in Gulf security: In response to a question on Pakistan's initiative for participating in a future security order for the Persian gulf, Mr Zaki said that Islamabad "wants to intensify its political, economic and defence cooperation with the region." He said that as the future shape of things is developing, Islamabad has been undertaking efforts to improve bilateral relations with countries of the region.

Akram Zaki said that the forthcoming meeting of the ECO (Economic Cooperation Organisation) in Tehran next month, would be an important opportunity for improvement of relations with Turkey and Iran. In response to another question on relations with India, Mr Zaki said that Islamabad hopes for better ties with New Delhi, once a new government gets elected.

However, the situation in Kashmir and the level of repression against ordinary citizens remains a matter of major concern, he added.

ANP leader slates JI chief's Khost visit

From our correspondent

DI KHAN—Haji Janat Khan Mehsud Provincial Councillor of ANP has lashed out at Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmed for visiting Khost and termed it a brazen interference in the domestic affairs of Afghanistan.

He also lamented the killing of 1.05 million Muslims in the neighbouring Muslim country at the behest of a superpower which had its own axe to grind.

The News

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KHOST: Afghan Mujahideen sit atop a bullet ridden Soviet made Kabul government Antonov AN-32 transport plane at Khost airport.—AFP.

Mujahideen in full control of Khost

From Mohsin Raza

KHOST (Afghanistan)--Bodies of Afghan armymen still lay scattered in Khost on Wednesday as Mujahideen carried away seized goods and weapons from the city they captured at the weekend.

As a truck carrying journalists moved through the city, a man was seen running away. Shots were heard and on return to the scene the Mujahideen said the man, apparently an Afghan soldier, who did not want to surrender was killed.

The soldier hid himself after the fall of the garrison city, located 30 kilometres from Pakistan. He was trying to flee Gardez, the closest regime-controlled city, 70 kilometres to the north-west.

Rebel sources said more than 200 Mujahideen were killed and 500 injured, in the battle. By Tuesday, Khost was fully under their control of Mujahideen. Occasional gunfire was the indication of their jubilation over their 'most significant achievement' in 12 years of fighting to overthrow the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul.

Another 24 aircraft, all bearing the red-star markings of the Soviet Union, were found at the older air-

port. Most of them were transport aircraft, crippled by Mujahideen rockets fired from the Torghar mountains.

Bodies, some mutilated, were seen floating in the Khost river. A Mujahideen commander said 50 bodies were recovered from the regimental headquarters.

The main bazar of Khost was empty and there were no civilians. They have fled to Pakistan before Khost fell to Mujahideen, a resistance commander said.

Mujahideen have yet to recover a huge quantity of weapon and ammunition from underground bases. Witnesses said various Mujahideen factions were cooperating with each other. The resistance parties had set up a 23-member Council of Commanders that led the battle for Khost, but so far, a civilian administration has not been set up in the city as promised.

The Council

Khost and after

NO doubt the liberation of Khost represents a major breakthrough for the Afghan mujahideen on several counts. In recent months, the Najibullah Government had taken to using it frequently as a display window for its military strength which should prove rather embarrassing now that it is lost to mujahideen control. Besides the implied psychological victory, Khost is also strategically placed to influence troop and supply movements between Kabul and the south-western provinces and its control will considerably reinforce the Afghan resistance operations. The massive defence effort put in by the Afghan troops is fairly indicative of the importance the Kabul government attaches to retaining the town within its administrative limits. Conceding a major victory, - after a long lull period, will further damage to the Najibullah Government's credibility, particularly so since it adds strategic and psychological gains to the large areas already under mujahideen control.

However, because of the very importance the Kabul regime attaches to Khost, the casualty of innocent Afghans has also been on a much larger scale than previously seen. In its desperation to retain control, the Kabul regime has been found using weapons of mass destruction with a frequency and abandon which was not apparent even at the height of the Afghan struggle. The situation is likely to deteriorate further once the anticipated ground and air attack is launched by the Kabul government to bring Khost back into its folds. It is, therefore, appropriate that Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN has played up the humanitarian angle and appealed for UN probe into the situation. As a country that has the most to gain from a peaceful political settlement, after Afghanistan itself, Pakistan has to step up its pressure on the two superpowers, to ensure that Afghanistan does not become a forgotten cause in their preoccupation with the post-war modalities in the Gulf region. It is obvious that the revival of interest in Afghanistan that we witnessed last December has not been there since the more recent Gulf war. And it is quite possible that Afghanistan will keep receding in priority with the two superpowers because of its economic insignificance compared to the Gulf situation. That is precisely why the Pakistan Government must keep its pressure on the two superpowers to use their newly-acquired working relationship to the early benefit of the beleaguered Afghan people. The UN already has a strong footing in the solution-making process and has maintained its monitoring presence in the post Geneva Accords period. It is, therefore, most suited to push a peaceful political settlement for Afghanistan.



A Mujahid aims a Stinger missile during the Khost offensive.

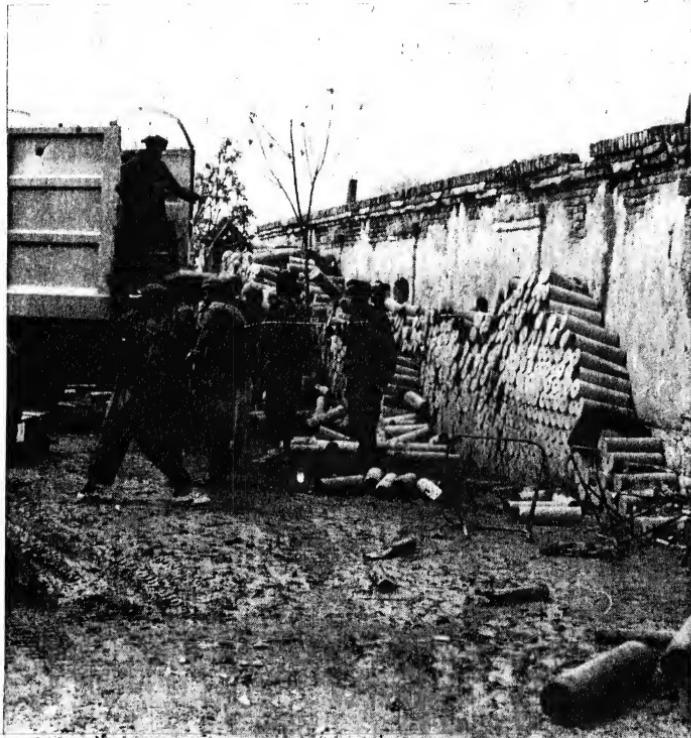
15 killed in Scud attack on mujahids' base

ISLAMABAD (UPI)—At least 15 people are reported to have been killed in a Scud missile attack by the government troops on a mujahideen base in Afghanistan. The missile was fired at a mujahideen base near the Pakistani border.

The information minister of the mujahideen government in exile, Najibullah Lasei told the AFP news agency that at least 15 people had been killed in the attack on the Khalil Makar Base situated southeast of the city of Khost in eastern Afghanistan.

The attack followed reports that the mujahideen had captured more than 15 government positions and destroyed two transport planes and a helicopter in 48 hours of fighting.

Earlier, the mujahideen rejected Kabul's claim that the offensive against Khost had been repulsed.



Pak efforts for Afghan solution

From Our Special Correspondent.

ISLAMABAD-Pakistan has decided to step up diplomatic efforts leading to setting up a broad-based government in Kabul. According to high-level diplomatic sources, despite the fall of Khost, the Afghan Cell meeting on Wednesday, chaired by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and attended by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, COAS Mirza

Aslam Beg and Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Admiral Sirohey, among others, decided to go for a political solution rather than a military one. According to these sources, it was the President who insisted on a political and diplomatic solution to the Afghan impasse.

The same sources claim that the COAS was inclined to finding a military solution but had to go along with the consensus.

The feeling in the meeting was that Khost, because of its unique geographical location, was in any case bound to fall. Hence this 'victory' should not deflect Pakistan from stepping up its diplomatic efforts for a political solution.

It was decided in the meeting that Islamabad should step up efforts in tandem with the USA, Soviet Union, Iran and Saudi Arabia to achieve the goal and also to keep China informed about these efforts.

The absence of a Foreign Minister at this crucial juncture is being badly felt here, as under the newly-appointed Secretary-General Foreign Office, Mr Akram Zaki, the Foreign Office can effectively execute policy but the political thrust will still be lacking. The UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Benon Sevan will also soon be visiting these capitals as part of his shuttle to find a diplomatic solution to set up a broad-based government in Kabul.

Khost under heavy attack

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR-The Kabul planes heavily bombed the city of Khost and its surrounding areas on Thursday after the two days of pause in the aerial attack, a report said.

The towns and villages targeted included Bali, Tawdi, Chiana and Shamal. The Kabul planes also used cluster bombs in the raid, the report said. Mujahideen shot down a bomber, the report added.

The neighbouring areas of Khost were also attacked by Scud missiles on Wednesday. Several persons were killed and wounded during the attack. The exact figures, however, could not be known.



MIRAM SHAH Afghan commander Jalaluddin Haqqani (C) smiles in his base as Amin Wardak (L) and Abdul Haq (R) other top guerilla commanders congratulate him. Haqqani led the Mujahideen to victory in Khost, eastern Afghanistan, after a 17-day battle against government officials.—AFP.

NATION APR 05

Oakley praises mujahideen victory

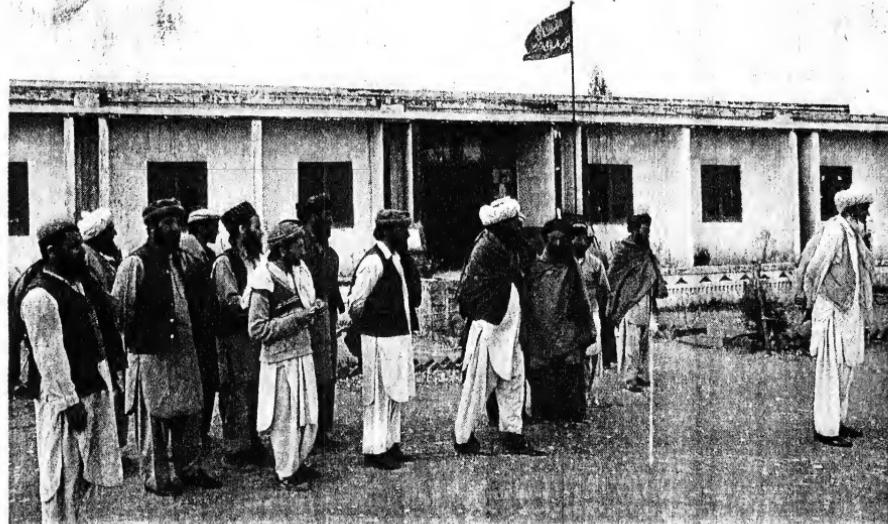
F.P. Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD — The United States ambassador to Pakistan, Robert B. Oakley has praised Afghan mujahideen's recent victory in capturing Khost.

Talking to newsmen at USIS function on Monday, he said that contrary to their operation in Jalalabad mujahideen this time made co-ordinated efforts and displayed much confidence.

The American envoy was in a very happy mood and addressing Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's press assistant Hussain Haqqani said: "you could have asked a question from Kimmit about Al-Zulfikar".

The News APR 01



Afghan refugees in front of the office of Hizbulah, an organisation affiliated with Gulbuddin Hikmatyar's Hizb-e-Islami, at Qaadqai near the Afghan border. —Photo by Saeed Bangash

**KHOST UNDER COMPLETE CONTROL OF MUJAHIDEEN, MORE THAN
2200 REGIME TROOPS SURRENDERED, SITUATION DESCRIBED CALM**

The situation in the Khost city following its liberation in the late afternoon of March 31 has been reported calm. According to the decision of the local Supreme Council of commander, no one can enter the Bazaar (downtown) area without prior authorization. The 23 member Local Supreme Council of Commanders adopted a set of rules for administration and security of Khost in one of its meetings a few days ago. Now it supervises putting those rules into practice. No looting or disorderly behavior has been reported following Khost's liberation.

Mujahideen sources reported to MIDIA that the weather of Khost has been rainy since last night and no air bombardment has taken place. Neither has the Kabul regime used Scud rockets -- at least a couple of which used to be fired almost every day since the recent fighting began.

Mawlawi Haqani's office in Peshawar disclosed that more than 2200 officers, soldiers and militiamen have been captured by the Mujahideen. Since the city was under complete siege of the Mujahideen, very few regime troops might have succeeded to escape. About 600 wounded regime troops have been moved to safer places by the Mujahideen and medical treatment is being provided by the cooperation of the ICRC. Exact number of casualties is not available yet.

It is reported that during their big victory, which came after 18 days of intense fighting, the Mujahideen seized tens of tanks and APCs, few aircrafts, and thousands of various types of weapons along with huge quantities of ammunitions.

Today, Monday April 1, 1991, the fighting of Khost ended completely after the last pockets of resistance were crashed last night. The green Islamic banner has been hoisted over the radio station, military headquarters, Matoon Baba hill, the Khost bazaar, and government offices.

In a message, Commander Haqani, a prominent member of the local Supreme Council of commander, has requested the Mujahideen positioned in Khost to strictly follow the rules set by the Council. Haqani's message also states that the work for finding regime troops who may have hidden themselves continue. He adds that the families residing near the Khost bazaar, who suffered greatly because of the war, have been transported to the safer border areas and Miramshah on the basis of Islamic sympathy of the Mujahideen. Every effort is being made to secure for them relief assistance from humanitarian organizations or other sources.

(M I D I A)

APR 01

'Khost fell as defenders had lost heart'

KHOST, April 5: An Afghan General captured by Mujahideen when they seized the government garrison at Khost, said his forces had lost the will to fight after 12 years of war.

Gen. Gul Aqa said the final assault that ended last Sunday was sudden and well planned.

"We had never thought that the Mujahideen would launch such a fierceful attack on Khost," he said after Kabul forces had successfully resisted years of seige.

"One reason for the fall of Khost is that the government troops had been fed up of defending themselves from the Mujahideen attacks since the last 12 years," he said.

In Khost, 25 km (15 miles) inside Afghanistan, bodies of government soldiers still lay about the city, some prey to stray dogs.

Mujahideen fighters said many more lay unburied in the woods around Khost, which fell when most defenders capitulated to the Mujahideen after a two week offensive.—Reuter.

UN asked to send team to held Kashmir

SRINAGAR, April 5: Kashmiri militants holding two Swedish engineers demanded on Friday the United Nations and Amnesty International send teams to investigate alleged atrocities in the Indian held Kashmir.

If the demands were not met within a week the world community would be responsible for the consequences to John Jansson, 35 and Jan Ole Loman, 37, the Muslim Janbaz (crusader) Force (MJF) said in a statement sent to reporters.

It did not say what the consequences would be. The MJF statement accused the world of a "criminal silence" over events in Indian occupied Kashmir.—APP

Mujahideen take over Jaji Maidan

PESHAWAR, April 5: Mujahideen of the Hezbe-i-Islami Afghanistan took over control of the Jaji Maidan district of Paktia province, reports Afghan news agency.

The Mujahideen occupied the district after the besieged militia numbering about 1200 fled to Malikhel in Kurram agency along with their family members. The Mujahideen seized eight tanks, four Cannons, two anti-aircraft guns and one machine gun. Some 200 die-hard Communist families of the militiamen comprising 3000 to 3500 members reached Malikhel, Kurram agency the other day. —PPI

India's concern over Khost fighting

NEW DELHI, April 5: India Friday expressed "deep concern" at the reported renewed fighting in Afghanistan and the involvement of "external elements" in the fall of Khost town.

Without naming any country an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said here the military operations were not in accordance with the Geneva Accords and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

The spokesman said India was convinced that the only way of resolving the impasse in Afghanistan was through a political settlement. —PTI

MUSLIM APR 06

Surrender of Kabul militiamen surprises Afghans

By Rahimullah Yusufzai

KHOST—The Gilum Jam militiamen who had a reputation of being tough fighters are the centre of attraction since their rather abject surrender to the Afghan Mujahideen in the battle for Khost.

About 350 of them are presently being held by Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis) Commander Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani in his Barhi base near Khost.

Nobody knows where the remaining Gilum jam disappeared since their strength in Khost garrison was stated to be around 3,000. Mainly Uzbek and Tajik, these militiamen come from northern Afghanistan. Most of them belong to the Jauzjan province and are therefore also

referred to as the Jauzjani Militia. Some of them hail from provinces like Balkh, Saripul Fariab, Samangan, Baghlan, etc.

They all speak Dari, the Afghan variant of Farsi.

The manner in which the Gilum Jam militia was raised has an interesting background. Gilum Jam are Dari words chosen as the name of the militia force with a particular objective. "Gilum" is the name given to a matting or an inferior quality carpet spread on floors while "Jam" in Dari means "to collect". Those serving in this militia were required to collect the matting from the houses and property owned by their opponents. That was its figurative explanation, but in reality the Gilum

Continued on Page

Afghan Mujahideen leader calls for political solution

The victory at Khost provides 'the best moment for a settlement' says NIFA chief, Pir Saiyed Ahmed Gailani

By Maleeha Lodhi

ISLAMABAD—Describing the Afghan Mujahideen's victory at Khost as "a major success", Pir Saiyed Ahmad Gailani has said that this success should not however lead the Mujahideen to think of pursuing a military solution. The head of NIFA, (National Islamic Front of Afghanistan), one of the moderate, Peshawar-based Mujahideen groups, said that the war in Afghanistan, as in the past, is not been fought for its own sake, but as a means of pressure on the Kabul regime. He made these comments while talking exclusively to The News at his residence in Islamabad.

The Mujahideen leader said

that the victory at Khost provides "the best moment to go for a political solution". He said several opportunities in the past to secure a political settlement had been lost, which is why it was important not to squander the present one. Pir Gailani explained that military success at Khost, coming after two years of stalemate on the ground, had strengthened the Mujahideen's negotiating position and given it an upper hand.

Until now, and certainly in recent months, the Kabul regime had been talking about a political settlement, but from a position of strength. This situation had now changed, he argued. "The

Continued on Page back

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Surrender of Kabul militiamen

Continued from page

Jam militia were supposed to annihilate their enemies in the same way as someone would loot and plunder an opponent's house.

This strange name was coined by one Rasheed Dostum, founder of the Gilum Jam. An Uzbek from Jauzjan, Rasheed Dostum reportedly switched sides from being a Mujahideen commander after a dispute with Mujahideen forces in his area. It is said his house was looted and, as they say in Dari, all the "Gilum" (matting) there were "collected" (Jam) and taken away.

There are now several militias fighting on behalf of the Kabul regime but the Gilum Jam have earned a special place for themselves by excelling in the battlefield. Any city or provincial capital

threatened by the Mujahideen often places a request for Gilum Jam to reinforce its defences. This has happened in Jalalabad, Kunduz, Qalat and some other places. Since all of them survived the Mujahideen assaults, the Gilum Jam were applauded for their bravery. In course of time, their fame spread far beyond their native Jauzjan province.

But the Gilum Jam's ignominious surrender in Khost is bound to affect their image.

The 350 Gilum Jam who gave themselves up to Commander Haqqani's men on March 31 were defending Khost from the highly fortified Takhtabeg or Balahissar Fort, headquarters of the 25th division of Afghan Army. Takhtabeg's fall triggered a chain of events which culminated in the

subjugation of Khost.

Though still the star attraction among the prisoners of war held by the Mujahideen, the Gilum Jam are gradually being shorn of their larger than life image. Among the captured Gilum Jam are a large number of boys in their teens, one was an insane youngster who was also deaf and dumb, plus many others who were too ill or too weak to fight. Most were not properly trained.

The Gilum Jam appeared a helpless, dejected lot as their Mujahideen guards paraded them in the hills and ordered them to raise hands. They were also required to perform different chores. Many kept pleading that they were soldiers conscripted into the army and had no concern with the Gilum Jam.

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Afghan Mujahideen leader calls for political solution

Continued from page 1

fall of Khost has shown the weakness of the regime and has shattered its confidence". This is why, he said, this is the best time to explore avenues for a political settlement.

When asked what should be the next step towards such a settlement, Pir Gailani said "our friends in the Islamic world and elsewhere should put pressure on Kabul and Moscow to accept a political solution". The UN and OIC can play a role once all the parties accept the need for a settlement. He emphasised however that these international bodies should be a tool to implement such a solution.

When asked for his views about what shape a settlement could take, the NIFA chief said: "It is necessary to form a shura composed of commanders, ulema, tribal elders, intellectuals and others in order to widen the base of the AIG (Afghan Interim Government)". "What is needed", he stressed "is to evolve a representative body to speak for the Afghan people".

When Pir Gailani's attention was drawn to some Mujahideen leaders who were calling for a mil-

itary solution he said this view perhaps came from younger people, "but older people like me believe that it is time for a political solution". He said that right from the beginning, the aim of the Afghan Jihad was to establish a government acceptable to the people of Afghanistan. Military pressure was and will continue to be a means to achieve this aim. He said the objective should not be lost sight of: giving the Afghans an opportunity to exercise their right of self-determination.

He was hopeful of greater political unity among Mujahideen groups after their success at Khost. He said that the victory at Khost had been achieved by better coordination between the leaders and commanders of various groups. This showed that unity and coordination is possible on both the political and military front. Commenting on Jamaat-i-Islami leader, Qazi Hussain Ahmad's recent visit to Khost, he said "we have always been deeply appreciative of Pakistan's help, but in the present circumstances in the just liberated city of Khost, the visit of a Pakistani dignitary can be misconstrued to look like Pakistani interference".

Capture of Khost by Mujahideen to boost their morale

PPI

ISLAMABAD-The "Washington Post" and "New York Times" have carried reports about the capture of Khost by Mujahideen and say it may boost their morale.

A report of the daily "Washington Post" quotes US officials as saying that the capture of Khost may strengthen the morale of the Mujahideen and result in a political settlement of the Afghan problem. The paper quotes US Special Envoy to the Mujahideen, Peter Tomson, as having said that it is a major victory of the Mujahideen and it is hoped that it may result in accelerating the process for political solution of the Afghan conflict through free and fair elections.

The paper says the capture of Khost is not, at all, important militarily but is a major achievement

for boosting Mujahideen's morale. The "Washington post" quotes Ambassador Peter Tomson as saying that this victory will increase the inclination of the Mujahideen commanders towards unity in their other operations to be launched when the weather improves.

The daily "New York Times" quotes a US official as saying that capture of Khost is a big achievement because it opens the supply routes of the Afghan Mujahideen towards south-western Afghan provinces. After the Mujahideen victory in Khost, the US authorities have warned the leader of the Kabul regime, Najibullah, that Mujahideen will further intensify their military pressure if he does not relinquish power. The paper quotes US Under Secretary of State Robert Kimmit as saying that the fall of Khost has proved that now

time has come to move such a process wherein the Afghans can achieve their right to self-determination and decided their future themselves.

The paper quotes the US officials having said that five organisations of the Mujahideen implemented the offensive plan Khost in a very effective manner and used those tanks and arms and ammunition which they had seized from the Kabul regime forces two years ago. The paper says the troops arrested by the Mujahideen in Khost also include 600 members of the élite unit of Revolutionary Guards of Najibullah.

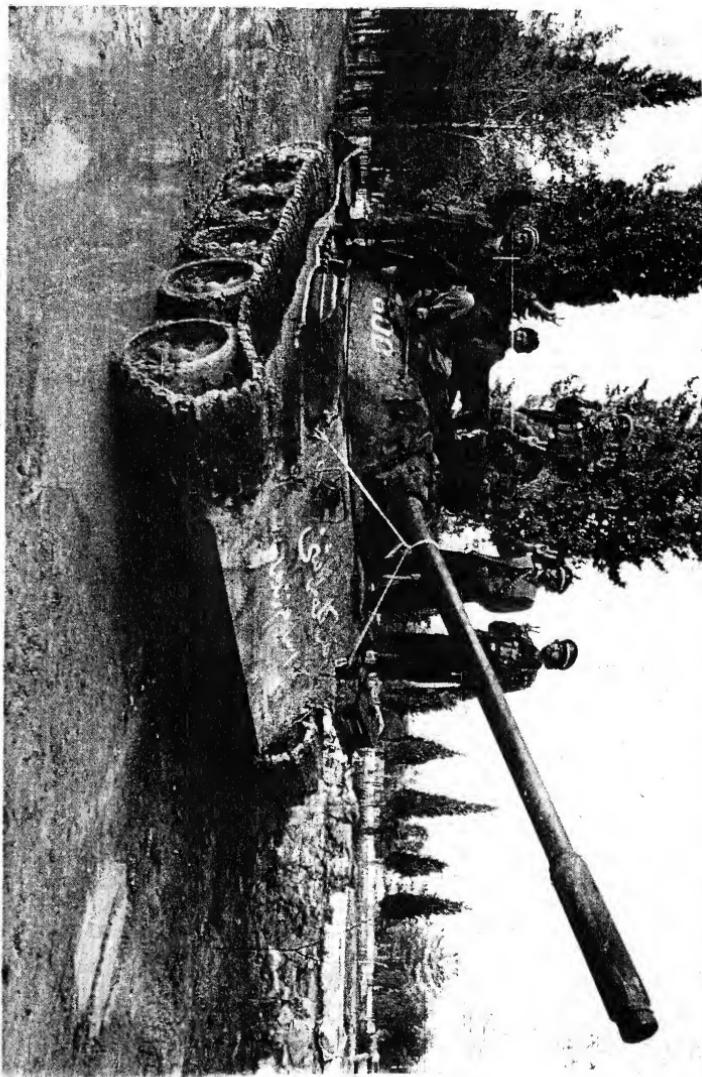
The paper adds that by capturing Khost, the Mujahideen have achieved a big propaganda and moral victory. The paper further says the Kabul regime took foreign journalists to Khost three years ago

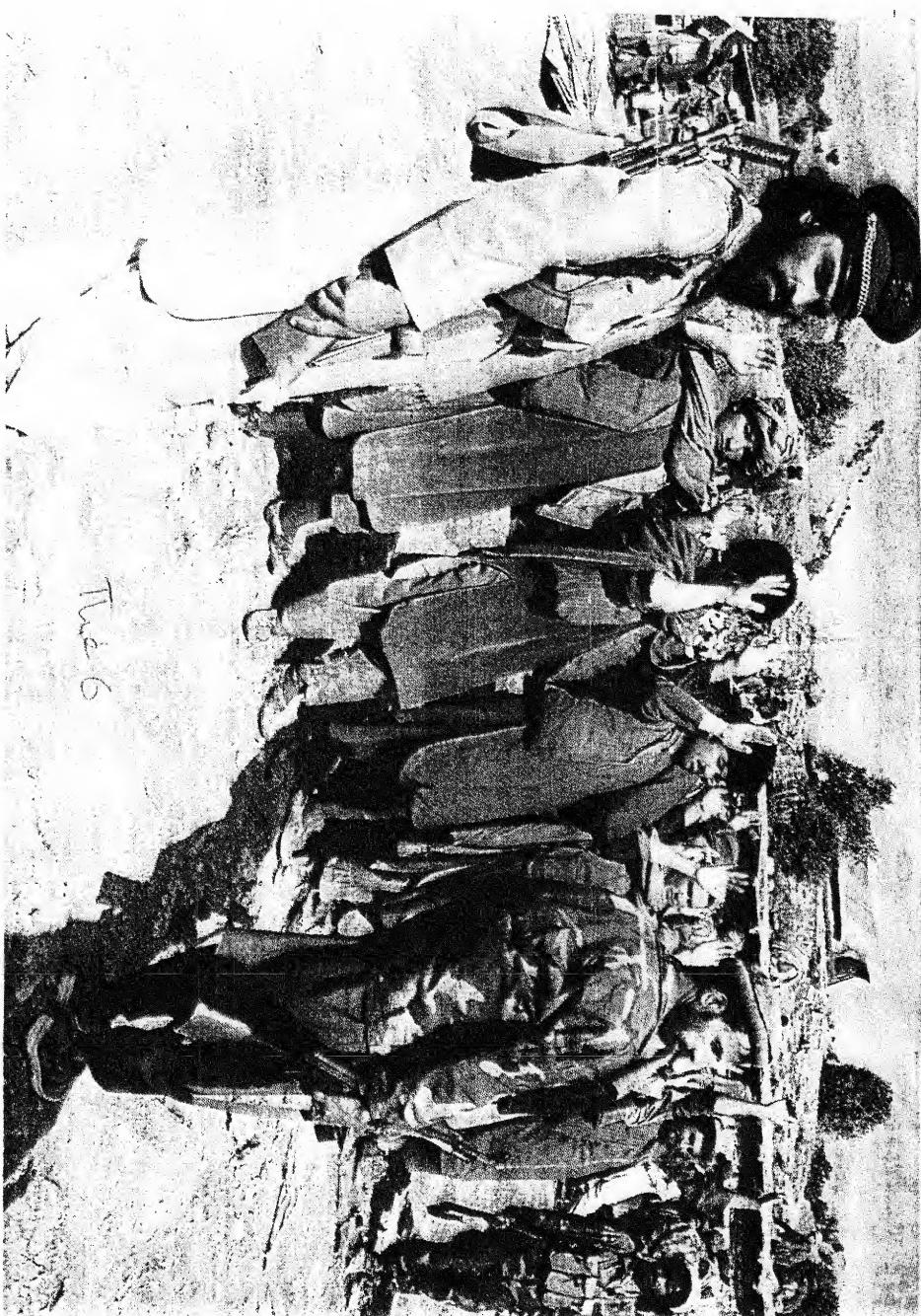
and showed to them the might and power of the Kabul regime and the Soviet forces. The "New York Times" writes that 80 per cent Afghan territory is now under the control of the Afghan Mujahideen and the capture of Khost has been their first victory since the capture of Tirin Kot last year. The paper predicts that the Mujahideen operations will intensify with the melting of snow.

The US officials say that the Soviet Union tried its best to prevent the fall of Khost. It sent its military advisors to fight against the Mujahideen in the guise of Afghan troops in Khost and also used scud missiles against them. The daily "New York Times" recalled that the Soviet Union provided weapons worth billions of dollars to the Kabul regime since the pullout of the Soviets.

WTC News APR 06

Afghan Mujahideen flashing victory signs on a tank commander Ibrahim used to force his way in to Khost ahead of the rest—Photo by Haider Shah





Mujahideen enjoy wearing caps of Afghan Army officers. Here one is wearing a Pilot's cap in Khost while the captured are ordered to raise hands.—The News photo by Syed Haider Shah

The News APR 06



The commander of Afghan Mujahideen showing the Klashinkovs which they confiscated during the attack on Khost.—Photo by Saeed Bangash

Mujahideen general claims Kabul unable to recapture Khost

By Anwar Iqbal

ISLAMABAD—The Afghan Mujahideen would succeed in holding Khost because they have cut off the route that Kabul could have used for launching a counter offensive against the city, said General Abdul Rahim Wardak of NIFA, one of the seven major guerrilla organisations.

The Mujahideen captured Khost, close to the Pakistani border in eastern Afghanistan, last Sunday. But since 1989 when they lost the Samarkhel garrison near Jalalabad to a Kabul counter attack, supporters of the Afghan rebels have begun to doubt their ability to keep a captured city.

"The route that links Khost with Gardez, the nearest Kabul stronghold, has been occupied by the Mujahideen since 1988," said Wardak.

To open this passage, Kabul

would need a large force and a constant supply of men and arms. They will also have to establish supply points all along the Khost-Gardez road. "They are unable to do so," said Wardak. Because moving large troops and supplies from other fronts will weaken them elsewhere and enable the Mujahideen to increase their pressure in other provinces," said Wardak.

What could Kabul do now? "Either take a very high risk of launching a major attack on Khost or against another Mujahideen stronghold or keep quiet," he said.

However, there is one option which still seems open to Kabul: aerial bombardment and missile attacks and that's what they seem to be doing in a big way these days.

General Wardak, who was Kabul's military attaché in India but defected to the guerrillas in 1978, admits that the Mujahideen

could do little against Kabul's bombers. "We have captured two air-strips in Khost, perhaps, we may use them for training our people to fly," he said. He claimed that some of the planes that the Mujahideen captured at Khost could be used after repairs.

The general admits that Khost had little strategic significance. "The victory in Khost is more of a moral booster for the Mujahideen. After the Jalalabad debacle, the guerrillas failed to capture any major city in Afghanistan. The fall of a city known as little Moscow, has helped the Mujahideen regain self-confidence," he said.

Like most military men Wardak also blames the "lack of good political leadership" for the Mujahideen's failures during the last two years."

He also believes that a military solution to the Afghan crisis "is still possible if we maintain the

unity that we displayed during the Khost offensive."

Wardak, who led the Koochi shoora which was one of the main five rebel flanks attacking Khost, said: "our was was a well coordinated multi-directional attack. We raided Khost from north, north-east, west, south and east. The operation was so well planned that the enemy failed to counter it."

The general had complaints against some guerrilla organisations as well who were "pretending as if they won Khost without any support from others."

Wardak said the NIFA sent two infantry and one artillery battalion to Khost but "they (Hekmatyar and Khalis groups) never mentioned the NIFA in their press statements." The Koochi Shoora, he said, played a decisive role in the battle, enabling other flanks to consolidate their positions "but nobody mentioned what we did."

The NEWS APR 07

Mujahideen capture 130 aircraft in Khost

ISLAMABAD (PPI) — A freelance Afghan journalist, Hamid Elmi, reporting on Khost situation after his two-day visit there, said that Khost was now completely controlled by the Afghan mujahideen. Offices of the Kabul regime have either been destroyed or burnt, dead bodies of the regime troops can still be seen lying on ground at some places. As many as 50 *Antalov* aircraft and helicopters have been captured by the mujahideen at the old airport of Khost. Similarly they have captured about 80 aircraft in the new airport of Khost city.

Hamid Elmi reports that a Shoura comprising representatives of all groups of the mujahideen was active in the suburbs of Khost city and all military operations were guided by this Shoura. In its

meeting on Thursday the Shoura discussed matters pertaining to the defence of Khost and tackling air raids by the Kabul regime. He said during his stay in Khost, he had seen no sign that could indicate that the deserter Khalqis had any hand in the military operations carried out by the mujahideen. Hamid Elmi said only the mujahideen were defending Khost. They unitedly launched attack on Khost from four sides. They used 10 tanks in the attack, captured from the Kabul regime troops.

The mujahideen later announced amnesty to win the trust of the local population.

According to VOG, the Afghan rulers have now themselves admitted that the occupation of Khost by the mujahideen has dealt a crushing blow to them, the ruling

Watan Party deputy chief, Farid, said. The next onslaught of the mujahideen would perhaps be on Gardez and that the Soviet-installed Afghan government has the potential to thwart these aggressive actions by the mujahideen, he added.

He said effective measures were being taken in almost all the areas including Gardez to pre-empt any possible aggression by the mujahideen in these areas.

The deputy chief of the ruling Watan Party could not provide any concrete proof about Pakistan's involvement in the offensive on Khost in a briefing to the foreign journalists.

The Afghan government troops are making desperate attempt to retake Khost. Afghan airforce planes bombed the city on Thursday

FRONTIER POST APR 07

WHEN WILL MUJAHIDEEN
ATTACK KABUL?

NOT IN NEAR FUTURE.
THEIR TRADITION DEMANDS TO
ATTACK EACH OTHER AFTER
EVERY VICTORY



FRONTIER POST APR 08

Swedes' release

From Page

Tails were unavailable on when and where Mr Khan and his parents were arrested or on what charges.

The MJF did not set a deadline for its demand to be met.

Meanwhile two abducted Swedish engineers said in a letter, published here Friday they were being treated well by Muslim guerillas holding them hostage in Kashmir.

Engineers Johan Jansson and Olle Loman said in the letter that their captors have been giving them food, water and "other necessities" since abducting them Sunday in the northern Indian state, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

"During the waiting time we try to sleep as much as possible, the men said in the letter reportedly released to the press by the abductors.

Mr. Jansson and Mr. Loman said, they "hoped that the situation would improve soon," the agency reported.

It gave no further excerpts from the letter.

The two hostages were abducted by armed gunmen when they were travelling by car from Tangmarg to Gulmarg, 45 kilometres from Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital.

The kidnappers also abducted Mr. Jansson's wife and two children, but released them after holding them at an undisclosed hideout for five hours.

Mr. Jansson and Mr. Loman were employed by a hydroelectric firm in the state's frontier Uri region.—AFP

Mujahideen's terms for Swedes' release

JAMMU, April 6: Muslim militants fighting for Kashmir's liberation from India have demanded freedom for an imprisoned Mujahid and his parents in exchange for the release of two kidnapped Swedes, officials said here Saturday.

The Muslim Jaanbaz Force (MJF) conveyed its demand Friday to an Urdu-language daily *Al-safa*, published from Srinagar.

The MJF, an ally of the outlawed People's League, said Johan Jansson and Olle Loman would be freed if the Kashmir administration released Nayeem Khan and his parents from prison.

Mr. Khan is a member of the People's League, which opposes Kashmir's 1947 accession to India.

Officials in Jammu, declined comment on the demand. De-

Contd. ON Page

MUSLIM APR 07

Mujahideen kill 24 soldiers

PESHAWAR, April 7: As many as 24 Kabul regime soldiers were killed while 15 others injured when Mujahideen attacked the newly-built security posts of the Kabul regime at Kakjar in Samangan province on April 3.

Sources of Jamiat-e-Islami, Mujahideen said Sunday that Mujahideen launched a surprise attack on regime posts and captured four security posts of Nabi Kosoon, besides killing 24 regime soldiers and injuring 15 others. Three Mujahideen embraced martyrdom while five others sustained injuries during the operation.

Mujahideen destroyed two tanks, two military trucks and captured huge quantity of assorted weapons. —ANA.

MUSLIM APR 08

Mujahids oppose political solution

Captured Afghan general denies Pak involvement in Khost

From SIKANDER HAYAT

MIRANSHAH — Prominent Afghan mujahideen leader Jalaluddin Haqqani has expressed indifference to Pakistan's peace initiative for political solution of Afghanistan problem saying war against the Najib regime would continue.

Peace proposals take long to mature and "we cannot wait", he told a journalist at a press conference here on Wednesday in the presence of scores of Afghan commanders who had fought and won the battle of Khost early this month. It is the first major victory of the mujahideen, boosting their morale very high.

"What is peace if the war is already being won," he said, adding any city that would fall to the mujahideen would be free of bloodshed, bombing and Scuds of the Kabul regime.

Pakistan has set in motion a peace initiative envisaging a role for the secretary-general of the United Nations in securing political settlement of the Afghan question. The initiative involves consultations with many countries, including the Soviet Union, China, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

Haqqani, who was hailed at the press conference as the "conqueror of Khost," disclosed that in the battle Kabul forces surrendered after giving a "heartless fight". A total of 25 generals and over 2,500 Kabul troops were taken prisoner.

Prominent among the generals who were later shown to the journalists were deputy minister for defence Lt. Gen. Zahir Sulahmal and chief of tribal militia Lt.-Gen. Shireen. Other generals who were also presented to the press party were Maj.-Gen. Mustafa, who is deputy chief of political affairs in Kabul's ministry of defence, Local garrison commander Maj.-Gen. Gula Aqa, chief of staff of artillery brigade, Maj.-Gen. Qasim and brigadiers Nisar Ahmad, Ahmad Shah and Wali Mohammad.

The captive officers were made to sit in row with their backs against the wall of a hall in a religious school headed by Haqqani. In the verandah squatted about a 100 are so boyish looking, but dreading, Jauzjani militiamen.

Mainly Tajik and Uzbek these militiamen had been flown in to Khost from the northern provinces of Afghanistan, their strength at

the time of Khost battle was estimated at 3,000, but only 350 could be captured.

In a brief talk allowed by Haqqani Afghan General Zahir Gulahmal blamed bad weather and lack of supplies and reinforcement for the Kabul regime's defeat. But leaving every bit a professional soldier he did not appear to be repentant of his siding with Najib.

When asked how was the morale of his troops, he cryptically replied it would be no use discussing morale after defeat. But he appreciated the treatment meted out to him by the captors. "The mujahideen are looking after us in the traditions of Muslims and Afghans."

Could he speculate on the consequences of the Khost debacle for other Kabul garrisons? he was asked. He replied "I cannot say anything." The same was his reply when asked would Kabul try to retake Khost.

He rejected the rumours that he was part of a mission to Khost sent by Kabul to negotiate peace with the mujahideen. He said he was part of the forces defending Khost, and had reached there 10 days earlier to analyse the political and military situation.

Question was asked: Did you encounter any Pakistani soldier in the Khost battlefield? Gen. Sulahmal's reply was: "In the Khost battle we did not see Pakistani troops."

For a soldier every part of his country is important and for the general Khost was also important to defend. "From geographically point of view we have lost an important area," he replied a questioner.

Commander Haqqani, however, attached far more importance to the capture of Khost, as in his words this city was breeding ground of most of the Kabul militia and home of many important communist officers of the regime.

In his press conference Haqqani said the mujahideen had planned at least twice before to take Khost but they had failed. Previously they had tried to capture the outer areas and tried to raise pressure on Khost city.

This time it were the better planning, more co-operation among the mujahideen leaders and superior weapons that brought them victory, Haqqani said. He called

(Continued on Page)

Mujahids oppose political solution

(Continued from Page)

the city strategic as it controlled the routes to other cities like Gardez and Ghazni and finally Kabul.

However, he was not prepared to discuss his military plan, confining himself to saying that the fighting has reached Ghazni and Gardez.

Commander Jalaluddin Haqqani asked the world community to help rebuild Khost, which is stated to be in ruins. Even today, according to reports reaching Miranshah, Khost was under carpet bombing by Kabul aircraft.

He said mujahideen need help to clear mines and funds to restart schools and hospitals. No doubt when Kuwait was liberated many countries agreed to rebuild this country, is it because Kuwait has oil. We also fought for 12 years for freedom and there should be some recognition of this struggle."

Commander Haqqani said the prisoners of war would not be put on trial. Anyone of them who gave the mujahideen his words that he would not rejoin the Kabul's anti-Jehad forces would be free to go, he explained.

He debunked the reports that some of the captured were allowed to escape because they bought their freedom with money. He said not many could escape, some who

did make use of two mujahideen's permission to let families leave the city.

Gen. Shireen, he said, also tried to escape with a family but he was intercepted and held. "Some of the families are still in Khost and are being questioned for harbouring the Kabul troops," he said.

Giving an account of casualties, the commander said on the side of mujahideen 160 were killed and over 300 were wounded. But he had no information as to the casualties of the Kabul force.

There were about 80 bodies in the hospital and 30 lying near the airport. We told the International Red Cross to take care of these bodies," Haqqani said.

Commander Haqqani opposed the idea of shifting the headquarters of the Afghan Interim Government to Khost. His argument was that in that case the struggle would like Kabul versus Khost and "we don't want to divide Afghanistan."

He said he had no differences with Gulbaddin Hekmatyar, but a spokesman of Hekmatyar, Nawab Salim, told this correspondent that commander Haqqani was not speaking for the collective leadership. "Americans are interested in projecting commander Haqqani," he added.

FRONTIER POST APR 11

Mujahideen should capture other cities before attacking Kabul: Afghan commander

From Rahimullah Yusafzai

PESHAWAR—Commander Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani has said that the Mujahideen should try and capture Gardez, Qalat, Ghazni and other similar and smaller targets before attacking Kabul.

In an interview at his Barhi base in Khost province, he argued that the Mujahideen supply routes to Gardez, Qalat and Ghazni were open unlike the Kabul regime which found it difficult to supply these garrison cities. He felt the fall of these three cities would put a tremendous pressure on the shaky Najib government in Kabul.

Commander Haqqani's Mujahideen played a major role in capturing Khost. Some of his supporters call him the "conqueror of Khost", a title which invites immediate protests from his opponents. Haqqani is nominally a commander of Hizb-i-Islami (Khalis) but his stature and importance have grown to such an extent that he is treated almost at par with leaders of the seven full-fledged, Peshawar-based parties.

Haqqani thought Gardez, capital of Paktia province, was an easier target than Khost. He pointed out that Gardez, Ghazni and Qalat had big concentration of Mujahideen on all sides and were vulnerable. He said some of the captured Khost weapons could be jointly used in future Mujahideen campaigns. He estimated that these weapons were enough to attack and take a garrison equaling Khost in size.

The commander explained that Soviet-manufactured T-55 tanks captured by the Mujahideen in Samarkhel (Jalalabad) and in Qalat along with artillery pieces were brought to Khost for the final offensive. He felt the Mujahideen success in breaking through Khost's highly-fortified security ring from at least three sides (South, North and East) led to a panic among the garrison defenders and forced them to surrender. He recalled that the hull in fighting had occurred not due to the severe Kabul bombardment but because of the need to evaluate the Mujahideen military effort before embarking on the second and final phase of the battle.

Commander Haqqani disclosed that a coup attempt plan for Khost could not materialise last October once it was unearthed by Kabul regime officials. He said 400 Mujahideen were infiltrated into Khost as part of this plan.

The regime, he added, got suspicious when the pro-Mujahideen elements started send-



Afghan Commander Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani.—Photo by Syed Haider Shah

ing their families out of Khost. This prompted the regime not only to plug the infiltration routes but also nab more than 20 pro-Mujahideen ring-leaders. He informed that at least 10 of these people were freed when the Mujahideen captured Khost's old jail on March 31.

According to the commander, the Khost offensive was planned about four and a half months ago. He said all Mujahideen groups active in Khost area were taken into confidence and a 23-member Shura was formed to co-ordinate military operations.

He argued that unity and joint operations were the major factors behind the Mujahideen w/i

in Khost. He maintained that past attempts to capture Khost were not as big as the latest offensive.

The commander claimed five divisions of Afghan soldiers, militiamen, Tsaranday, Khad, Garde Khas, Sipah-i-Inqilabi, Gilum Jam etc. defended Khost.

He said they were well-equipped in terms of weapons and training but were overwhelmed by the fearless Mujahideen.

Haqqani pointed out that Khost's fall was such a big loss that Dr Najibullah announced a day of mourning. He said the Mujahideen by taking Khost had nullified the propaganda that they can't capture a city. As for the

strategic importance of Khost, he said 11 routes branched-off from Khost to the Pak-Afghan border thereby turning it into a central trading and commercial centre. The number of downed regime planes (about 100) also explained the money and efforts invested in defending Khost by supplying it by air.

According to Commander Haqqani, the Mujahideen lost between 150-160 men in the Khost battle while more than 300 sustained injuries. The regime losses, he said, were much higher. He strongly refuted Kabul charges of Pakistan's involvement in the Khost attack.

Mujahideen down two planes capture 19 posts

A total of two transport planes of the Kabul regime were downed by Afghan mujahideen at Bagh-i-Sahra airbase on Saturday night while 19 other security posts were captured as the battle for Khost garrison continued on Sunday.

ANA correspondent reports from Miranshah that the transport planes were hit by mujahideen artillery fire while hovering over the airbase.

Report from far and wide of Khost speaks of heavy fighting between mujahideen and the regime forces. As the fighting gained momentum and the besieged army intensified its resistance for their survival the firing of scud missiles on mujahideen positions also crossed the graph. In Saturday's scud firing around a hundred mujahideen were reported injured at different places around Khost while more than 40 were martyred.

As a result of the scud firing an ambulance of mujahideen was also smashed at Zani Khel near Sra Ghundai killing five mujahideen including the driver of the vehicle.

The regime tank and heavy artillery once again moved towards one side of the Bagh-i-Sahra air-

port and pushed back mujahideen from two major military posts. As a result heavy fighting once again erupted between mujahideen and the regime forces at one side of this airport. However, the airport as a whole is in possession of mujahideen and the regime is unable to land any plane for re-enforcement.

Mujahideen made further advancements from the old airbase site and captured 10 security posts in between the Khost city and the old airport. At this front mujahideen were at a distance of 2 kilometres from the city. Mujahideen under Commander Dr. Nusratullah captured 12 militiamen while killed 80 others. Three mujahideen embraced martyrdom while 15 others were wounded at this front.

Mujahideen also captured six more posts of the artillery brigade at the north of the new air base. A regime tank was also destroyed by rocket fire of the mujahideen.

Three other posts were captured by mujahideen at the north-west of the airport. Severe fighting is also reported at Sarband near Ismail Khel at south-west of Khost.

Another report from Balkh pro-

vince says that mujahideen ran over one security post of the regime at Musa Khel village of Charbolk District. One regime personnel was killed while one PK machinegun, one ZK-1 and 5 kalashnikov rifles were recovered by mujahideen from the post.

Meanwhile, latest report disclosed that mujahideen again fought back the regime militiamen from the two major security posts at one side of the new airport. According to one Shariat Yar, representative of Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani mujahideen have captured the whole of the 6th artillery brigade, Mahbas, Takhta Baka, old and new airbases and reached the Pajkhel village near Khost Bazar.

Meanwhile, Meer Qudratullah, video film maker of Hezb-e-Islami Afghanistan sacrificed his life while taking live recording of battle at the Khost fronts.

He was amongst the 40 mujahideen martyrs hit by scud missiles.

His dead body was brought to Peshawar and laid to rest at the Shamshatu refugees camp graveyard here on Sunday.

A large number of refugees and local leaders of the party attended his Nimaz-e-Janaza.

Kabul regime claim on Khost rejected

Senior field commanders of Afghan mujahideen in the embattled Khost region of Paktia province have totally rejected the claims of the spokesman of Kabul's foreign ministry, Humayun Mukammel, that the Afghan mujahideen resistance offensive on Khost city has been "beaten back".

In reply to a query from an ANS correspondent, two field coman-

ders, including Capt. Moosa of Ittehad-e-Islami and Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani of Hezb-e-Islami (Khalis) said, "heavy ground battles were still in progress and the mujahideen have held on to their positions in and around Khost since March 28". They asserted that inspite of large-scale bombing and

rocketting by Kabul regime forces with Frog and Oragon missiles, the Afghan mujahideen had not retreated even a single inch. They have persistently held their ground.

Latest reports coming from Khost, through wireless messages, indicate that the combined mujahideen units have smashed all the protective bunkers of the city's airport. At least 20 armoured cars and tanks were set on fire in attacks on the airport bunkers.

Mujahideen also ridiculed Kabul regime spokesman's claim of the expansion of Khost's security belt towards south.

However, the fighting seems to have claimed an unusually heavy toll on both sides during the past two weeks of battles. Hospitals in Gardez, Kabul as well as Peshawar are said to be receiving war casualties daily.

FRONTIER POST APR 01

Mujahids to capture Kabul this year: Qazi

PkSF condemns 'interference' in Afghan affairs

F.P. Report

QUETTA — Provincial leaders of the Pukhtoon Student's Federation has condemned interference by imperialist forces in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Addressing a protest rally at Manan Chowk on Thursday, the PkSF leaders alleged that the imperialist forces were responsible for the fall of Khost valley. They claimed that the occupation would remain no longer as Afghan people had never accepted the foreign domination, adding that Afghan people under the leadership of Dr. Najibullah would frustrate the foreign aggression against their motherland.

Leaders of the PkSF regretted that the government of Pakistan did not respond positively to proposals of President Dr. Najibullah for solution of Afghan crisis according to the Geneva Accord.

KARACHI (PPI) — Amir of Jamaat-i-Islami, Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad, has predicted that mujahideen will capture Kabul this year, Kashmir issue will be resolved and the Muslim world will get united under the leadership of Islamic movement.

He was addressing a big congregation of *Shabe-i-Dua* at Saddar area of Karachi on Thursday night.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad said a wave of re-awakening was sweeping the world and it was no longer an age of humility for the Muslims.

While referring to the fading glory of Russia, he said, this country was unmatched in respect of military might only 12 years ago but it began crumbling down soon after its discomfiture in Afghanistan.

"Afghan mujahideen did not accept direct aid from United States and Hizbe-i-Islami leader Gulbadin Hekmatyar refused to comply with the desire of former American President Reagan to meet him when he had gone to Washington to attend U.N. session," he said.

"They knew pretty well that America would strive to pounce upon the fruit of their struggle so they moulded mass opinion against America at the same time when they launched crusade against USSR," he added.

While describing his recent visit to Khost, Qazi Hussain Ahmad said, there was unique representation of Muslim masses, including those of Karachi, Hyderabad, Multan, Lahore, Peshawar, Kashmir and other parts of our country and they all have rendered sacrifices in the Jihad.

He said Khost was second most sacred city after Kabul for Najib group, but they were so appalled by the mujahideen attack that they could not destroy a huge dump of arms and ammunition before their escape.

He said, Muslim rulers promote their personal interest and they invited their adversary to save their crown. These rulers did not possess potential and capability to lead the Muslims and time was near when Muslim masses would unite under the umbrella of Islamic movements, he added.

FRONTIER POST APR 06

Mujahideen capture four security posts

ISLAMABAD (APP) — The Afghan mujahideen have captured four security posts of strategic importance in Samangan province bordering with Soviet Union.

According to mujahideen sources the Afghan guerrillas started the operation with rocket attacks on security posts near Aibvak, the provincial headquarter, on April 10 and inflicted heavy losses on the Kabul regime forces and killed 18 troops and destroyed two tanks and two army trucks and seized huge quantity of arms and ammunition.

In another report from Farah province fierce clashes took place between mujahideen and Kabul regime forces near Dil Aran town on Kabul-Qandahar Highway on April 7; mujahideen killed 32 Kabul troops.

FRONTIER POST APR 11

Mujahideen may now attack Gardez

PESHAWAR, April 7: After the capture of Khost, Mujahideen are planning to attack Gardez soon.

This was stated by Fahim, a commander belonging to Maulana Haqani group, in a talk with *midia* correspondents here on Sunday.

He said the Kabul regime had lost people's confidence after the fall of Khost and the victory proved that the Mujahideen could now launch a successful attack on Gardez, capital of Paktia.

Asked about planes captured in Khost, he said most of them were out of order. But some tanks, seized there, were in working condition, he added.

Asked about the future of captured militiamen, Fahim said the Shura of Mujahideen would decide the issue. For the present, he said, the captured Kabul troops would be sent to the Jalaluddin Haqani camp.

Meanwhile, Noor Ali, a teacher in a Khost school, told *midia* reporters that, while coming from Khost to Miranshah, a General of Afghan army, Hamed Ghulam Farooq, had also accompanied him but he later disappeared. He said the General was fleeing along with other families from Khost.

BEEFING UP OF FORCES: After the fall of Khost, the Kabul regime

is trying to beef-up its forces at other important places in the country.

According to recent reports from Logar and Paktia provinces, more arms and ammunitions are being supplied to troops as the regime fears attacks on Gardez and other cities in Paktia province.

A convoy, carrying arms to the forces in Gardez, was attacked by the Mujahideen, 45 km away from Kabul. A heavy loss to the regime forces was reported. In retaliation, the Kabul planes were bombing the Mujahideen basis in the Berg, Muzkin and Surkhab area of Logar province.

Fighting continued till the filing of this report.

According to Radio Kabul, the Najib Government has asked the elders and residents of Gardez to cooperate with the regime forces.

4 POSTS CAPTURED: Twenty-four Kabul soldiers were killed while 15 others injured when the Mujahideen attacked newly built security posts at Kukjar, in Samangan province, on April 3.

Jamiat-i-Islami Mujahideen sources told the Afghan news agency in Peshawar on Sunday that the Mujahideen launched a surprise attack on the posts and captured four of them, killing 24 soldiers and injuring 15 others.

DAWN APR 08

Mujahideen attack Kabul supply convoy

ISLAMABAD, April 9: Mujahideen attacked the puppet regime's supply convoy in Tang-Tayhqurgha area of Khulm district of Samangan province on April 7.

Two tanks of the convoy, which were going from Hyrat to Kabul, were damaged, including ten vehicles and oil tankers.

According to media sources four soldiers were killed and five others were captured by Mujahideen. A mujahid was martyred and another sustained injuries.

Mujahideen also launched missile attacks at Kabul's Khawaja Rawjish airbase and Gargha division headquarters on April 4. As a result of it one aircraft was engulfed by flames.

The attack caused a large number of human losses as well. It was reported by Commander Mullah Izsat through wireless message to media.—PPI.

DAWN APR 10

Afghan Mujahideen split booty as soldiers' bodies lie unburied

From Rahimullah Yusufzai

PESHAWAR—The Mujahideen may have demonstrated to the world they can win a battle and capture a heavily fortified enemy garrison. But what they subsequently did to Khost is unlikely to help the Mujahideen cause or win them friends among Afghanistan's much-battered civilian population.

Though the Mujahideen victory at Khost surprised many, what was even more surprising was their resolve to remain disciplined while savoring their remarkable win. The commanders knew how much harm had been done to the Mujahideen image by incidents of revenge killings, looting and petty rivalries on the occasion of their earlier victories at Kunduz, Kunar, Mangrahar, Paktia, etc. A repetition of such events could only be suicidal.

But the Mujahideen commanders began to lose control of the situation once Khost fell in the afternoon of March 31.

For some days before Khost's fall, armed men from the refugees

damps in Pakistan and from Mujahideen-controlled areas in Paktia province had been making a beeline to Khost in anticipation of victory.

Some Pakistani tribal freebooters too had come looking for their share of the war booty. All these men who had done little to capture Khost were in the forefront as

News comment

the victors marched into the garrison city. This however in no way absolves the true Mujahideen from the blame since they too joined the loot, claiming their share in the Mal-i-Ghanimat.

It is estimated that about 15,000 armed men rushed into Khost as it fell which was almost seven times the number of Mujahideen who first attacked the garrison.

A number of people accused the major Mujahideen groups' commanders and their men for looting the city.

In the midst of these accusations, one fact which emerged was that looting on a large-scale had occurred.

A visit to the Khost bazar by a group of journalists, including this scribe, on April 3 confirmed it.

None of the shops in this long, decrepit bazar was spared. Even the doors and windows had been taken away. Some armed men were busy trying to glean whatever remained. Trucks and tractor-trolleys parked in front of the shops were being loaded with every conceivable thing. It was a free-for-all. Signs of the loot were evident everywhere.

Vehicles of every description loaded with the looted goods were seen leaving Khost. On the road to Khost, the war booty was piled up at several points in the bases of various Mujahideen commanders.

Beds, beddings charpoys, tables, chairs, sofa-sets, geysers, boxes, quilts, timber doors and other household items formed

Continued on Page

Afghan Mujahideen split booty as soldiers' bodies lie unburied

Continued from Page

part of the booty. Even animals like donkeys, cattle, goats, sheep and poultry were being brought out of Khost.

The two hospitals in Khost deprived of everything by the looters offered a grim example of the extent of the loot. When asked as to why they were taking things away the most frequent reply was that it was alright to take the Mal-i-Ghanimat.

The Mujahideen in Khost defended the looting by arguing that pro-Kabul Regime elements who lived in and around the city had prospered at the expense of the Mujahideen and it was now their turn to enjoy the riches of Khost.

The organised Mujahideen groups too fought over the possession of important civil and military installations in Khost.

The more powerful groups like Hezb-i-Islami (Hekmatyar), Pir Sayed Ahmad Gaillani's and NIFA, and Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis) represented in Khost by Commander Haqqani succeeded in taking control of vital positions and buildings. Haqqani's people occupied

the two airports, the Takhtabeg garrison, the old prison, and the communications centre.

Hekmatyar's men controlled the strategic Matun fort, the headquarters of the 6th artillery brigade, the Piroza (workshops), and the residential colony.

It was the familiar pattern earlier seen in so many captured garrisons.

In certain cases, one group took away the equipment while the building housing it fell into the hands of a rival group. More serious was the wrangling over captured weapons. Here again Haqqani's and Hekmatyar's men were the main competitors. The enormous war booty of arms could have created a serious situation had Jamaat-i-Islami Pakistan Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad not intervened to mediate between the two groups. Pakistani friends of the Mujahideen in the ISI too contributed to calm down the combatants.

The war booty, especially the heavier arms have to go into the possession of the 23-member Mujahideen Shura for Khost if the agreement between the parties

and the commanders is to be strictly followed.

It remains to be seen as to how this problem would be resolved since these weapons are presently in the custody of different groups. One recent Shura decision to keep these arms in its collective possession for use in future military campaigns offers the best hope and solution to this wrangling.

Another thing which puts the Mujahideen in bad light are the unburied corpses of Kabul Regime soldiers and militiamen in Khost.

Most of the bodies lay rotting even when the Mujahideen were advised by Gulbaddin Hekmatyar and Qazi Hussain Ahmad during their Khost visit to bury them.

Saner elements among the Mujahideen concede it was both un-Islamic and inhuman to leave human corpses rotting. It is also something never done by the Pashtoons.

But then majority of Pashtoons dismiss such talk and refuse to bury the dead, calling them murdar. They often argue that the communists who brought miseries to the Afghans did not even deserve a decent burial.

Khost's fall 'major victory' for Mujahideen, says US

APP

WASHINGTON—The United States Monday hailed the liberation of Khost as a "major victory" for Afghan Mujahideen. US predicted few attacks throughout the country by the end of April, reports said Tuesday.

The Mujahideen were picking up where they had left off in October, a State Department official said. This was definitely a major victory for the Mujahideen, he added.

This victory should warn Najibullah that if he did not give up control of Afghanistan, the Mujahideen would redouble their military efforts.

Robert Kimmitt, Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, said in a televised United States Information Agency broadcast that the fall of Khost proved that the time had come to move beyond the current phase where there could be a legitimate act of self-determination by the Afghan people.

American officials reported that Afghan Mujahideen displayed

impressive co-ordination in the attack, and effectively deployed tanks, armoured personnel carriers and mortars they had captured from the Kabul regime forces.

The successful assault on Sunday capped years of effort to take the town, lending the Mujahideen a major psychological gain, the State Department official said.

The Mujahideen now controlled 80 percent of the countryside, 200 district capitals and six provincial capitals, American officials said. The fall of Khost, which guarded the vital supply routes connecting Kabul with Southwestern provinces, was the first Mujahideen victory since the capture of the provincial capital of Tarin Kot last October.

Administration officials said that the Soviet Union had made a major effort to avert the defeat in Khost, during the past two weeks. If the Soviets saw that they were throwing good money after bad, they hoped that the Soviets would realize that a political settlement was necessary, a State Department official said.

The News APR 03

Mujahideen, Kabul forces fortifying positions in Logar

From our Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD—Reports from Afghanistan say Mujahideen and Kabul regime forces have been fortifying their positions in Logar province following the fall of Khost to rebels.

The Mujahideen have attacked a supply convoy of the Kabul troops near Muhammad Agha town and the convoy fled towards Kabul.

The News APR 13

Mujahideen capture another base

By Our Monitoring Desk

Mujahideen have captured a military base following a severe fighting in Faryal province of Afghanistan, reports PTV.

The retreating Afghan troops left behind many ammunition depots and latest weapons.

Besides, the Mujahideen also killed an Afghan military official in this fight.

Our Correspondent adds:

Kabul planes heavily pounded Mujahideen targets in Khost on Wednesday, according to a message received at the headquarter of Afghan Mujahideen in Peshawar. Some civilian and military positions were also hit by Scud missiles. Ten Scud missiles were fired on Nadir Shah Kot region apparently from mobile bases in Kabul city causing heavy

human and material losses. The number of dead and injured were however, not mentioned in the report. Kabul planes have also dropped cluster bombs in and around Khost city.

The report also said that 25th mechanised division of Kabul regime which was one of the largest and best division had completely been destroyed. Meanwhile, the migration of Afghan families from Khost to other places and Pakistan is continuing. About 800 families have so far been shifted from Khost to safer places inside Afghanistan. But most of the families are seen crossing the Pakistan.

A report from New York adds:

A UN envoy has begun shuttle diplomacy between

Afghanistan leader Najibullah and Afghan Mujahideen leaders in Pakistan, UN spokesman Francois Giuliani said on Tuesday.

Benon Sevan, the personal representative of UN Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, met with Pakistani Foreign Secretary Akram Zaki and Afghan Mujahideen leaders in Islamabad before leaving for Kabul, Mr Giuliani said.

Mr Seban's shuttle diplomacy came at the behest of Mr Perez de Cuellar who wanted to lauch an intensive effort to find a political solution to the 12-year-old Afghan conflict, the UN spokesman said.

Mr Seban was expected to return to Islamabad soon to meet again with Pakistani officials and members of the Afghan resistance, which has been fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government

NATION APR 11

Mujahideen capture 4 more posts

By Our Monitoring Desk

In Afghanistan Mujahideen have captured four more official security posts, reports PTV.

It is stated that after heavy fighting in Bala Ram town Mujahideen have defeated Afghan official troops and captured four security posts and a huge quantity of ammunition and other weapons.

In Mohammad Agha District, Mujahideen have killed 32 Kabul troops in a severe fighting and inflicted them heavy loss. Fighting is reported to be continued between Mujahideen and Afghan official troops.

NATION APR 14

Four Mujahideen gunned down

PESHAWAR-Afghan Mujahideen including the brother of commander Deedar of Paghman District were gunned down by unknown assailants near Baghbanan, at the outskirts of Peshawar here on Sunday, reports the Afghan news agency.

According to details Mistri Alam, younger brother of Commander Deedar was on his way to the city in a pick-up along with five other persons when they came under indiscriminate firing of unknown assailants.

As a result, Mistri Alam, his brother-in-law Kaka, Dr Said Munir Jan, Nadar Shah died on the spot while another person sustained injuries. Another person in the same pick-up miraculously escaped unhurt. The sources said that assassination was linked with old family feud. The injured was admitted to the Shamshatu Refugees Hospital-PPI.

NATION APR 16

USSR contacts mujahideen, but not ready to dump Najib

Direct contact could pave the way for a settlement

By Zahid Hussain

ISLAMABAD—While moving a step forward in initiating direct talks with the Peshawar-based Afghan mujahideen leaders, Moscow has shown no sign of abandoning its support to Afghan President Dr Najibullah.

The Soviet officials' recent secret meetings with Gulbadin Hikmatyar and Zabihullah Mujaheddin in Islamabad were the first direct liaison between Moscow and Afghan resistance leaders on an Afghan political settlement.

The earlier talks between the Soviet officials and the mujahideen representatives in Taif, Saudi Arabia, and Islamabad in 1989 were confined to the exchange of POWs.

The Soviet delegation which also included, Moscow's envoy to Kabul, Boris Pastuchov, also exchanged views on the Afghan crisis with Pakistani foreign ministry officials.

Afghan mujahideen sources in Peshawar were tightlipped on what really transpired at the meeting, but Pakistani foreign ministry officials believed that the Soviet move was basically aimed at sounding out whether the mujahideen lead-

ers were prepared to discuss any transitional arrangement in Kabul, acceptable to all the parties. The Pakistani sources say that the Soviet emphasis remains on an intra-Afghan dialogue as a means to end the civil war in Afghanistan and it will be an exaggeration to conclude that Moscow was willing to concede to the mujahideen's demand of excluding Dr Najibullah from any interim administration.

"There is no sign that Moscow is cooling off its relations with the Kabul regime," contends one foreign ministry source. "Moscow's continuing huge military and economic assistance to Kabul indicates that it will not allow Najibullah's government to fall."

Western diplomats in Islamabad also share this view, and feel that Moscow does not seem to be under any immediate compulsion which could lead to a softening in its current position on an Afghan political settlement. Soviet diplomats in Islamabad firmly denied that Soviet officials during their meeting with the Mujahideen leaders indicated that Moscow was willing to dump Najibullah.

"These talks were essentially a part of the steps taken by the Sovi-

et Union to pave the way for intra-Afghan negotiations to find a political solution of the Afghan problem," comments a Soviet diplomat. "We insist that the proposed transitional arrangement in Afghanistan should be participated by all the parties including Dr Najibullah."

The Soviets, however, appeared optimistic that a continued dialogue could bring the warring parties closer to a political solution. Besides political issues, release of Russian POWs held by the mujahideen also came under discussion. According to Soviet officials, at least two hundred Russian soldiers were still missing and may be held by some of the mujahideen groups.

The Soviet move to open a dialogue with the mujahideen groups apparently came as the talks between Moscow and Washington on the Afghan issue last December ended in a stalemate. The two major issues pertaining to the nature of the proposed transitional government in Kabul and 'negative symmetry' remained unresolved as the US and Soviet foreign ministers

Continued on Page

USSR contacts mujahideen

Continued from Page

failed to reach a consensus to end the 12 years long Afghan war.

Moscow was not willing to accept Washington's proposal of transferring all powers to the transitional government, which would conduct elections in the war-ravaged country. The Soviet Union took a position that the transitional administration should have only enough powers to conduct elections, while President Najibullah stayed there with total control on the army and day to day running of the administration. "With new administrative powers, such a transitional arrangement would be nothing more than an election commission," says a foreign ministry official.

Observers believe that Moscow's insistence at keeping Najibullah in power is not without any rationale, as not only has he survived for over two years after the withdrawal of Russian troops

from Afghanistan, but also the fractious mujahideen alliance has failed to come out with any viable alternative. The increasing infighting among their groups have also strengthened Moscow's position.

The United States, on the other hand, has not much of a stake in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from there. The diminishing military and other material help to the Mujahideen indicates Washington's loss of strategic interest in Afghanistan. However, the US administration could not concede to the Soviet proposed transitional arrangement as none of the resistance groups would like to join any administration controlled by Dr Najibullah.

On the issue of negative symmetry, the Soviets contend that any agreement on stoppage of arms supply to both the sides, should not be confined only to US and the Soviet Union but also include Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Washington, while willing to sign an

agreement with Moscow, understandably could not ask the others to comply. This situation, probably, prompted Moscow to open a direct channel with the mujahideen groups. "This kind of contact will continue," said a Russian diplomat. "We are not opposed to a change in the government, but it should come through democratic means."

Some observers believe that with their involvement in the Gulf war, both the Americans and Saudis may be compelled to soften their position on Afghanistan. Recent reports, saying that the Soviet and American governments may reach a consensus on Afghanistan in their next foreign minister level meeting, gives credence to this optimism. But the consensus between the two super powers will only be effective, if endorsed by other parties involved in the conflict. A direct liaison between Moscow and the mujahideen groups could pave the way for a viable and peaceful settlement of the Afghan civil war.

Mujahideen's rocket attacks on Gardez inflict heavy losses

From Rahimullah Yusufzai

PESHAWAR—Afghan Mujahideen have started firing rockets and artillery into Gardez, capital of Paktia province, in a bid to harass its defenders.

Mujahideen sources claimed heavy human and material damages were caused in Gardez during the past three days due to long-range rocketing and shelling by Mujahideen. Some of these losses were also admitted by the Afghan government when Kabul

Radio accused the "extremist elements" of savagely rocketing Gardez on Eid-ul-Fitr.

According to Mujahideen sources, the Kabul regime had sent a force of the Gilum Jam militiamen to reinforce Gardez's defense. They said the Gilum Jam had been deployed on the front-line while the army men were withdrawn to secure the city. The civilian population of Gardez had reportedly been evacuated to a place several kilometers away from the city. Mujahideen claimed

the high-ranking civil and military officers had sent their families to Kabul.

A Mujahideen spokesman Yaqub Sharriyatay claimed 30 regime soldiers, led by a brigadier, had fled Gardez and surrendered to the Mujahideen. He said Maulvi Nizamuddin Haqqani had provided them succour and freed them. He claimed the rocketing on Gardez was ordered to take revenge of the savage bombing and firing of scud missiles on Mujahideen-controlled Khost.

Afghan missile kills Pak tribesman

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—A tribesman was killed when an Oregon missile apparently fired by Kabul Regime troops crashed into Landikhana near Landikotal in Khyber Agency last Wednesday.

The victim, Nazeem Khan, was a Shinwari tribesman belonging to Khyber Agency. He was picnicking in the area with his friends on the second day of Eidul Fitr when shrapnel from the missile hit him.

There was some confusion

whether the missile was Scud or Oregon.

The local authorities felt it was the short-range, Soviet-made Oregon missile. But Mujahideen sources maintained it was a long range Scud missile fired from Kabul.

The Kabul Regime had earlier fired a Scud missile into Khyber Agency about two years ago. It had hit the post office in Torkham but nobody was killed or wounded as the place was empty during the night. The Oregon missile was fired on Wednesday afternoon.

Three Mujahideen killed in bombing raids

PESHAWAR—At least three mujahideen were killed and four wounded by Kabul regime bombing raids in Borikhel area near Khost in Paktia province in Afghanistan during past two days.

Mujahideen spokesman, Yaqub Sharriyatay informed The News Sunday that bombing was in retaliation for a mujahideen attack on a congregation of Kabul regime soldiers near Matun two days ago which caused heavy losses.

He said SAKR-20 rockets were fired by Mujahideen under command of commander Maulvi Nizamuddin Haqqani, who himself escaped miraculously in ensuing bombing on Borikhel.

The News APR 19

Row between Mujahideen groups over Khost spoils

APRIL 8: There have been reports about a dispute among two Afghan Mujahideen groups over the distribution of a huge quantity of arms and ammunition seized by them from the government troops after capturing the Khost city last week, says VOA.

One of the Mujahideen organisations involved in this conflict is headed by Gulbadin Hekmatyar while the other group is headed by local Mujahideen commander Jalaluddin Haqqani.

The Mujahideen sources say that Hekmatyar's men have captured most of the seized arms including the strategic military installations of the Kabul regime near Khost, tanks

MONITORING REPORT

and helicopters.

Reports say that Haqqani's men who have control over the Khost city have complained that the other Mujahideen have not been given share from the seized weapons. Both the leaders also had a meeting recently and according to the sources, efforts were on to settle this dispute.

Meanwhile, the Kabul government has condemned what it calls Pakistan's involvement in the fighting between the regime forces and the Mujahideen, says VIRA.

By sending letters to a number of heads of state and govern-

ment, Afghan President Najib has asked these leaders to help in solution of the Afghan conflict. He has accused Pakistan of trying to disintegrate Afghanistan.

A spokesman of the Kabul regime's Foreign Ministry has said that these letters were sent to China, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden, Yugoslavia and a number of other countries. These letters were sent after the fall of Khost to the Mujahideen and the Kabul regime has blamed Pakistani troops for capturing the city and later handing it over to the Mujahideen.

Pakistan has denied direct involvement in Khost fighting.

Mujahideen offensive

PESHAWAR, April 14: Mujahideen have launched an offensive against the Kabul regime forces in Herat province, killing 20 soldiers, while another 6 were captured alive.

In wireless message to media in Quetta, Commander Mohammad Ismail Khan informed that the Mujahideen attacked a convoy of

Kabul regime in Torghundi Part of Herat province on April 7, causing death to 20 Communist forces, while another 6 soldiers were captured alive. Three military vehicles carrying arms and ammunition and one tank were also destroyed. During the operation, Mujahideen also captured different type of weapons.—PPI

DAWN APR 15

Mujahideen factions fully united: Jan

KARACHI, April 19: Afghan Mujahideen's struggle was passing through a crucial period and the days ahead will be decisive, said Commander Haji Ali Jan, chief of the Afghan Mujahideen.

Speaking at an Eidul Fitr congregation here at Sohrab Goth, he said the liberation war in Afghanistan has entered a decisive phase.

He said after the liberation of Khost, the morale of Afghan Mujahideen has gone sky high.

"Now we are preparing to liberate Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, and the Muslim Ummah should pray for our success," Haji Ali Jan added.

He said all the factions of Afghan Mujahideen were united and fully determined to liberate their motherland from the yoke of foreign aggressors.

Haji Ali Jan cautioned Afghan Mujahideen of the enemies propaganda and said they were put to divide the unity to foil the liberation plan. "No such enemies should be allowed to penetrate into our ranks and file," he added.

He reiterated that the Afghan war would continue until the victory of Mujahideen.

Maulana Qudratullah Asad and other Afghan leaders also spoke on the occasion.—APP

Four Mujahideen gunned down

PESHAWAR, April 14: Four Afghan Mujahideen, including the brother of Commander Deedar of Paghman district were gunned down by unknown assailants near Baghban, at the outskirts of Peshawar here on Sunday, reports the Afghan news agency.

Details said Mistri Alam, younger brother of Commander Deedar was on his way to the city in a pick-up along with five other persons, when they came under indiscriminate firing by unknown assailants.

As a result Mistri Alam, his brother-in-law, Kaka, Dr Said, Munir Jan and Nadar Shah died on the spot while another persons sustained injuries. Another person in the same pick-up escaped unhurt.

Sources said the assassination was linked with old family feud.—PPI

DAWN APR 15

APR 20

Mujahideen never accepted direct US aid, says Qazi

KARACHI, April 5: Jamaat-i-Islami Amir, Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad is hopeful that Mujahideen shall capture Kabul this year, Kashmir issue will be resolved and the Muslims throughout the world would unite.

Speaking at a big congregation in connection with "Shab-e-Dua" on Thursday night, at Masjid-i-Khizra, Saddar, the Jamaat chief said a wave of re-awakening was sweeping the world and it was no longer an age of humiliation for the Muslims.

Referring to the Soviet Union, he said this country had a great military might only 12 years ago but after suffering a setback in Afghanistan, it was on the decline.

"Afghan Mujahideen did not accept direct aid from America and Hizbe-i-Islami leader Gulbadin Hikmatyar refused to comply with the desire of former American President Reagan to meet him when he had gone to Washington to attend UN session," he claimed.

"They knew pretty well that America would strive to pounce

upon the fruit of their struggle so they moulded mass opinion against America at the same time when they launched crusade against USSR," Mr Qazi observed.

Referring to his recent visit to Khost, Qazi Hussain Ahmad said he saw there "a unique representation of Muslim masses", including those from Karachi, Hyderabad, Multan, Lahore, Peshawar, Kashmir, and they all rendered sacrifices in the Jihad.

He said Khost was the second most important city of Afghanistan after Kabul, but Najib regime forces were so unnerved by the Mujahideen's attack that they could not destroy a huge dump of arms and ammunition before their escape.

He said Muslim rulers only promoted their personal interests, and invited even their adversaries "to save their crown". These rulers do not possess the potential and capability to lead the Muslims, and time was near when the Muslim masses would unite under the umbrella of Islamic movements," he hoped.—PPI

NATION APR 6

Mujahideen destroy two posts

ISLAMABAD (APP)—The Afghan Mujahideen destroyed two security posts and captured a large quantity of arms and ammunition in different land operations in Herat, Helmand and Ghour provinces in Afghanistan. Sixty Kabul troops also surrendered to Mujahideen.

According to Afghan Mujahideen sources here, a clash took place near the town of Ursakan on Kandhar-Herat highway, in which Mujahideen forced the Kabul troops to surrender along with arms and ammunition.

Meanwhile a military post was destroyed by Mujahideen in Lashkargah, headquarter of Helmand.

Mujahideen capture strategic posts in Samangan

ISLAMABAD (APP)—The Afghan Mujahideen have captured four strategically important security posts in Samangan province on the border with Soviet Union.

The Mujahideen sources said that the Afghan guerillas started the operation with rocket attacks on the security posts near Aibak, the provincial headquarter, on April 10.

These sources claim of inflicting heavy losses on Kabul regime forces. They said that at least 18 Kabul troops were killed while two tanks and two Army trucks were destroyed.

They said that a huge amount of arms and ammunition was also captured by Mujahideen.

The News
Apr 14

The News
Apr 21

Mujahideen gunned down near City

Four Afghan mujahideen, including the brother of commander Deedar of Paghman district, were gunned down by unidentified assailants near Baghban, at the outskirts of Peshawar on Sunday, reports Afghan News Agency.

According to reports Mistri Alam, younger brother of commander Deedar was on his way to Peshawar alongwith five other persons when they came under indiscriminate firing of assassins. As a result Mistri Alam, his brother in law Kaka, Dr. Said Munir Jan and Nadar Shah died on the spot while another person sustained injuries. An other person in the same pick-up miraculously escaped unhurt.

It believed the assassination was linked with old family feud. The injured was admitted at the Shamshatu Refugees Hospital.

FRONTIER POST

APR 15

Mujahideen seize large quantity of arms

PESHAWAR (PPI)—Huge quantity of arms and ammunitions were recovered by the Afghan Mujahideen during the fall of Dasht-e-Archi district of Kunduz province, Afghan News Agency reported here.

Dasht-e-Archi district was of strategic importance for both Soviet Union and Kabul regime as the district borders Soviet Union in northern Afghanistan.

It fell to Mujahideen soon after the capture of Khost garrison in the eastern Paktia province of Afghanistan.

Eminent Mujahideen commander, Engineer Bashir told Afghan News Agency in a wired communication from Takhar province Sunday that Mujahideen captured six hundred Kla什nikovs, two hundred other heavy rifles, and two heavy cannon.

The News
Apr 24

Mujahids kill two regime commanders, militiamen

Two famous communist commanders along with a number of militiamen were killed by mujahideen in different operations launched in the provinces of Herat and Ghore.

According to MIDIA, General Ismail Khan, commander of South West Afghanistan in a message informed that mujahideen launched attacks in the Karshk area of Ubba district, 80 km away toward East from Herat city. The offensives launched on April 18, caused major financial and human losses to the regime forces.

A famous commander of the communist regime Taimur along with a number of militiamen were killed and all the military posts were destroyed. All the area was liberated from the clutches of communist regime.

According to the reports 8 militiamen were killed and a mortar gun, 8 kalashnikovs besides some wireless sets fell to mujahideen.

According to another message mujahideen launched a series of attacks under the commandership of Mohammad Hassan over the security posts in the Kamanj area

of Shahrak district in Ghore province on April 13, 15 and 16. As a result some of the posts were demolished and communist commander Hassanuddin along with a number of militiamen received serious injuries. The report added that besides destroying a number of the regime's posts, mujahideen captured 25 militiamen and broke the security belt along with the main highway leading towards Herat. Mujahideen also captured a number of arms and ammunitions during the operations. No loss to mujahideen is reported.

According to a separate report, a large number of communist troops were killed by mujahideen in two different attacks in the districts of Shahrak and Tolak of Ghore province recently. Com-

mander Arbab Mohammad Alam informed that mujahideen launched an attack in the Margha area of Shahrak district in Ghore province on April 19. As a result a large number of communist officers and militiamen were killed while 15 troops including an officer were arrested alive. Mujahideen also captured a large number of arms and ammunition during the operation.

Four mujahids were also martyred in the incident.

In another offensive in Tolak district, commander Wakil Usman informed that mujahideen attacked the army headquarters in the district on April 19. As a result 30 militiamen were killed while 70 received serious injuries. No losses to mujahideen were reported.

Search operation continues in Asadabad

The number of those killed in the senseless Scud attack of the criminal Kabul regime on Asadabad of Kunar is much higher than mujahideen's original estimates. By Monday morning, many sources reported the number of death about 300. Twelve more bodies were found on Monday afternoon. There are conflicting reports about the number of injured persons. It seems that the number of serious injuries reaches about 200. Thirty Chitrali women and children were also among the victims. Three passenger buses were destroyed as well, says MIDIA.

On Monday the search operation continued at the site of the three storey building which had housed most of the victims. Twelve more bodies, including some women, were found in the site.

Commander Mohammad Qasem, who had rushed to Asadabad few hours after the explosion, told MIDIA in an interview

that when he reached the place, fire had encircled the Asadabad Bazar. He claimed that the Scuds had caused some arms and ammunition shops to get fire and explode. The blaze was such that no one could approach the incident site for several hours. There was also a petroleum depot in the market, which fanned the flame.

Answering a question, commander M. Qasem said that some local commanders including Mohammad Arif, Mohammad Gulab, Mulla Ajmir, and Saleh Mohammad were martyred in the incident.

Dr. Shirzad director of Dawa Hospital, where the above interview was conducted, told MIDIA reporter that out of 51 injured persons hospitalised in Dawa Hospital, the conditions of 45 were satisfactory. Six patients, however, had lost their hands or other parts of the body because of the severe burns.

Mujahideen clamp curfew on Khost

2200 taken prisoners • Najib declares nation-wide mourning

MOHAMMAD ZAHID

Kabul regime at last officially conceded defeat following President Najibullah's televised address to the nation which said that Afghan army had lost contact with Khost and asked for a country-wide mourning on Tuesday (today) over the fall of Khost to mujahideen.

Radio Kabul in its main Pushoto bulletin did not use the word "defeat". However, it mentioned that government troops were losing control over the garrison town. The radio again accused that Pakistani military advisers had been assisting mujahideen in their onslaught on the town. Afghan government, the report said, had sent letters to the U.N. officials both in Kabul and Islamabad regarding Pakistan's involvement in the recent offensive.

The battle for Khost started on March 18. Since then mujahideen had been claiming victories. But after the unsuccessful attempt to capture Jalalabad some years back no one was ready to accept the

mujahideen claims. Even political observers and diplomats in Islamabad had predicted that it was unlikely that Khost would fall to mujahideen. The latest victory, which, to many, is also morale boosting for mujahideen, has proved that Afghan opposition in exile could now pose serious challenge to the "sinking man" by using Khost as a launching pad for attacks against the Soviet-backed Kabul regime.

According to VOA sporadic fighting was still continuing as the fleeing Kabul militiamen and other people loyal to communist regime were offering resistance to the triumphant mujahideen.

Meanwhile, mujahideen Shoura has imposed curfew on Khost in a bid to avert looting and arson. BBC, in its report, said that government militiamen and other security personnel were fleeing towards Gardez, the capital of Paktia but mujahideen commanders have been trying to block their way towards the capital. Another report said that armoured units from Kabul were on their

way to Khost. But it could not be confirmed whether the armoured units were sent to recapture Khost or defend Gardez against the possible mujahideen attacks.

Following the collapse of Khost about 1200 Afghan families were also reported to have crossed into Pakistan. About 1000 families have reached Kurram agency while 200 families have camped at Parachinar. Commissioner for Afghan refugees has directed officials to provide them (refugees) with tents and blankets.

While the exact figure of the casualties is yet to come, reports from Parachinar indicate that hundreds of people have been killed on both sides. Mujahideen sources also claim that 2200 Kabul regime troops have been made prisoners.

Sources in Peshawar said that about 400 injured mujahideen had been taken to the city hospitals for treatment. Arrangement through IRC, the sources said, were also being made to bring the injured persons both from the mujahideen and Afghan army to Peshawar.

FRONTIER POST APR 02



Afghan troops captured by Mujahideen in Khost offensive.

Mujahids seize arms during operation

A huge quantity of arms and ammunitions was recovered by the Afghan Mujahideen during the fall of Dasht-e-Archi district of Kunduz province, reports Afghan News Agency (ANA) reports, PPI.

Dasht-e-Archi district was of a very strategic importance both for Soviet Union and Kabul as the district borders Soviet Union in northern Afghanistan. It fell to mujahideen soon after the capture of Khost garrison in the eastern Paktia province.

Mujahideen commander, Engineer Bashir told ANA in a wired

communication from Takhar province, on Sunday that mujahideen captured 600 kalashnikovs, 200 other heavy rifles, two heavy cannons, 17 ZK-1, 12 military trucks, one tank, five P.K. machine guns, two heavy grenade machine guns, ten RPG-7, five grantots, ten E.R. 105 wireless sets, eight howitzer cannons, two 76 mm cannons, seven tractors and other ammunition.

Twenty seven government personnel were killed during fighting for the district which included amongst others, district director of KHAD, Khan Mohammad, deputy director of management Moalim Sarwar, and deputy director for political affairs of the brigade, Shamsi. Beside, the mujahideen captured 55 regime personnel. No account of the injured was given.

A total number of 21 mujahideen martyred while 36 others sustained injuries.

'Mujahideen in position to talk to Moscow'

ISLAMABAD—The International Bureau for Afghanistan has held a week long conference in Islamabad recently. The aim of this conference was to know the impact of the Gulf war on the Afghan issue besides assessing the political and military situation prevailing in Afghanistan. A prominent Afghan intellectual, Naeem Majrooh had also participated in the conference.

Mr Majrooh said it was agreed during the conference that the fall of Khost to the Afghan Mujahideen had enhanced their prestige and tarnished the image of the Kabul regime. It has proved wrong the claim of Kabul régime that the Mujahideen could not defeat it in the battlefield.

Majrooh also said the Mujahideen should now launch attacks on military installations of Kabul régime in various cities, but prior to their attacks they should make arrangements for the safety of civilian people and their property.

Mr Majrooh said the Mujahideen should continue exerting military pressure on Kabul régime in order to pave way for a political solution to the crisis and if there is no military pressure a political solution

then is not possible.

He said a single leadership is acceptable to both the Mujahideen and Afghan people and is necessary as it would replace Kabul régime. He said 'we should try to get out of the present deadlock'. Mr Majrooh said it was agreed in the Paris Conference that the international community should send relief goods for the Afghan refugees inside Afghanistan.

He said the fall of Khost to the Mujahideen would help in talks with the Soviet Union in order to seek a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem. He said the Soviet Union should now understand that the Mujahideen were capable to capture more cities and topple Kabul régime.

He said the Mujahideen and refugees should not depend on foreign assistance for ever, rather ways and means be explored so that they could stand on their own bottom. In this way, the Mujahideen would get out from foreign influence because foreign assistance has resulted in emergence of a large number of groups and parties among the Mujahideen.—PPI.

NATION APR 23

Mujahideen preparing to attack Kabul

KARACHI-Afghan Mujahideen's struggle was passing through a crucial period and the days ahead will be decisive, said commander Haji Ali Jan, chief of the Afghan Mujahideen.

Addressing an Eidul Fitr congregations here at Sohrab Goth, he said the liberation war in Afghanistan has entered into a decisive phase.

He said after the liberation of Khost a few days back, the morale of Afghan Mujahideen has gone up.

"Now we are making preparations for our next important attack to liberate Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, and all the Muslim Ummah should pray for our success", Haji Ali Jan added.

He said all the factions of Afghan

Mujahideen were united and fully determined to liberate their motherland from the yoke of foreign aggressors.

Haji Ali Jan cautioned Afghan Mujahideen of the enemies propaganda and said they were out to divide our unity to foil our liberation plan.

No such enemies should be allowed to penetrate into our ranks and file, he added.

He reiterated that the Afghan liberation war will continue unto the last and hoped that 'inshallah' our next Eidul Fitr will be celebrated in our own motherland - Afghanistan.

Among others Maulana Qudratullah Asad and other Afghan leaders also addressed the Eidul Fitr congregations.- APP.

Mujahideen recover arms, ammunition

PESHAWAR, April 21: Huge quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered by the Afghan Mujahideen during the fall of Dasht-i-Archi district of Kunduz province, reports Afghan news agency.

Dasht-i-Archi district was of very strategic importance for both Soviet Union and Kabul regime, as the district borders Soviet Union in northern Afghanistan. It fell to Mujahideen soon after the capture of Khost garrison in the eastern Paktia province of Afghanistan.

Eminent Mujahid commander, Engineer Bashir, told Afghan news agency in a wired communication from Takhar province Sunday that Mujahideen captured 600 kalashnikovs, 200 other heavy rifles, two heavy canons, 17 ZK-1, 12 military rucks, one tank, five PK

machine-guns, two heavy grenades, machine-guns, ten RPG-7 five granatos, 105 wireless sets, eight Hawan cannons, two 76 mm cannons, seven tractors and other ammunition.

Twenty-seven regime personnel were killed during fighting for the district, which included, amongst others, District Director of Khad, Kan Mohammad, Deputy Director for management, Moalim Sarwar, and Deputy Director for Political Affairs of the Brigade, Shamsi. Besides, the Mujahideen captured 55 regime personnel. No account of the injured regime personnel was given.

A total number of 21 Mujahideen sacrificed their lives for the capture of Dasht-i-Archi district, while 36 others had sustained injuries.— PPI

Attack on Asadabad may set back peace efforts

By Farhan Bokhari

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's government on Monday told the UN Secretary General, that violent events in Afghanistan such as Sunday's missile attack on Asadabad, can only damage prospects for a political settlement to the 12-year long conflict.

As the casualty figure soared to at least 400 with many more injured and a large number still unaccounted for, Pakistan condemned the attack, through a letter sent by Mr Jamshed Marker, Pakistan's envoy at the UN, to Secretary General Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Mr Jamshed Marker wrote, "While the brutal use of weapons of mass destruction by the Kabul regime, against the Afghan population underscores the desperation of the Kabul regime, they also damage the prospects of a politi-

cal settlement in Afghanistan". He also expressed his concern that escalation in the Afghan war could have consequences for Pakistan too. Mr Marker said, "Such acts (escalation in war) directly affect Pakistan, producing fresh flows of Afghan refugees. Following the attack on Asadabad, hundreds of injured Afghans and their relatives have started arriving in our border towns and hospitals".

Mr Marker's letter made no explicit mention if this latest flare-up could complicate initiatives for a political settlement. But, some officials privately expressed concern that while Islamabad was trying to seek a political solution, an escalation in the war could only discourage groups among Mujahideen to be persuaded to pursue similar avenues.

Said one official privately, "There are many parties to the Afghan conflict, and different

messages could be sent to different groups".

Since last month's invasion of Khost by the Afghan Mujahideen, many officials and Western diplomats monitoring Afghanistan have been convinced, that fresh ground has emerged for pursuing a political settlement. Said one diplomat, "Khost has put Afghanistan back on the map", referring to the last six months when global attention towards the Gulf crisis had pushed the Afghan issue on the "back-burner".

In recent days, some officials have been optimistic that a high powered Soviet delegation expected in Islamabad later this month or early next month, may also pave the way for a solution. But, all this optimism could stand to be premature if fighting intensifies in Afghanistan in the coming days.

On the one hand, there have been growing signs that the parties involved in the Afghan conflict want to see an end to the war. But, with the principal combatants (mujahideen and the Afghan government) still well armed and receiving support from their sponsors, the idea of pushing for a political settlement may continue to face difficulties.

The News

APR 23

Mujahideen-Kabul working through UN to avoid scud attacks

By Anwar Iqbal

ISLAMABAD—The Afghan Mujahideen and the Kabul regime are working through the UN to avoid scud and rocket attacks against civilian targets, said Akram Zaki, secretary general foreign affairs, while talking to The News here Sunday.

He was commenting on Sunday's Scud attack on Kunar in which about 300 people were killed and over 700 injured. A message was sent to Kabul immediately after the fall of Khost on April 1 not to launch Scud attacks on this eastern city of Afghanistan.

Later international news agencies reported that Islamabad had also offered to arrange a deal with the Mujahideen to stop their rocket attacks on Kabul in return for an assurance from Najib of not hitting Khost with Scuds.

Though Zaki did not say anything about the reported offer, he said Pakistan did not want the loss of more lives in Afghanistan and was especially against hitting civilian targets.

However, he said that the Mujahideen and regime in Kabul were also

Continued on Page back

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Mujahideen-Kabul working through UN to avoid Scud attacks

Continued from Page 1

working through the UN to avoid civilian casualties.

He said Benon Sevon, the secretary general's envoy for Afghanistan, was currently in Paris discussing the situation with Perez d'Uellar.

Asked about the impression in some Afghan circles that Islamabad opposed a political settlement in Afghanistan, Zaki said: "Islamabad favours a political settlement and is doing whatever it can to promote it. But if some people think otherwise, we can only hope that they change their views."

Asked was it the civilian government and the Foreign Office that made Afghan policy in Pakistan or was it still being made somewhere else, Akram Zaki said: "It is a total false impression that our foreign policy is made by others. It is the civilian government which makes foreign policy, including the one on Afghanistan and all other institutions work under this government."

Commenting on Sunday's killing of six Kashmiris in Srinagar he said Pakistan condemned all violations of human rights in occupied Kashmir including the latest.

He said Islamabad raised the issue of the violation of human

rights in occupied Kashmir at different international fora including the European and the British parliaments.

Recently, he said, the issue was also raised at a US Congress Subcommittee on Asia as well where two representatives spoke against the violation of human rights in Srinagar. The committee is headed by Stephen Solarz, a pro-Indian congressman.

Asked whether Pakistan will raise the Kashmir issue at the September session of the UN general assembly, he said: "It is still a few months to the session, we will talk about it when the time comes."

The News APR 23



A view of the devastation caused by the missile attack on Kunar's capital, Asadabad on April 20.—Photo by Syed Haider Shah



U.S. deplores Scud attack on Asadabad

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States deplores the reported Scud attack by government forces on the mujahideen held eastern Afghan city of Asadabad and has made its view known to Moscow, the State Department said on Monday.

Spokesman Richard Boucher said the department was trying to confirm the reports.

A resistance official in Asadabad said on Monday that more than 300 bodies had been pulled from the rubble of that city following Saturday's Scud missile attack by Kabul government forces.

Boucher said that, as in the case of a Scud attack on the Afghan city of Khost earlier this month, "the United States deplores the use of this terror weapon which causes great damage to life and property, with little military significance."

"We have made our view known to Moscow on the use of these terror weapons and will continue to do so," he added.

Moscow is the main political and military backer of the Kabul government.

KABUL: Rescuers sift through rubble at the northeastern rebel-held Afghan town of Asadabad where 400 people were killed by a Scud missile attack on April 20.—Reuter wirephoto

US objects to Scuds supply to Afghanistan

WASHINGTON--The United States raised objections to the continued supply of Scud missiles to the Afghan Government Forces, the State Department said on Monday.

A spokesman Richard Boucher did not say how the issue was raised, but officials said US Secretary of State James Baker, travelling in the Middle East, placed a call on Monday to his Soviet counterpart, Alexander Bessmyrtnik.

Richard Boucher said the United States was not suggesting that Soviet technicians had fired the missiles but he said the Soviets, as the principal military supplier to the Afghan Government Forces, bore responsibility for the presence in Afghanistan of a weapon whose use is mainly to terrorise civilian population.

Our Monitoring Desk adds:

Pakistan has sent a letter to United Nations Secretary General Perez de Cuellar condemning the Scud attack at Asadabad, reports

US deplores scud attack on Asadabad

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A resistance official in Asadabad said Monday that more than 300 bodies had been pulled out from the rubble of that city, following Saturday's scud missile attack by Kabul government forces.

Boucher said that, as in the case of a scud attack on the Afghan city of Khost earlier this month, "The United States deplores the use of these terror weapons, which causes great damage to life and property, with little military significance". "We have made our view known to Moscow on the use of these terror weapons and will continue to do so," he added.

Richard Boucher said US Secretary of State, James Baker, now in the Middle East, placed a call Monday to his Soviet counterpart, Alexander Bessmyrtnik.

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VOA.

In the letter Pakistan maintained that due to the Scud attack at Asadabad by the Afghan government, Pakistan was directly affected as a large number of injured people are continuously entering Pakistan with their families for medical treatment.

Pakistan accused the Afghan government for killing its own people and called it a blow to the chances of any political settlement to this bloody civil war.

Foreign Ministry spokesman of Washington has also expressed grave concern about the Scud attack, slating that this type of fatal weapons should not be used. Washington also informed the Afghan government about their concern.

However, the Afghan government have denied the allegation.

Mujahideen sources say that more than 500 people have been killed in the attack.

NATION APR 24 Mujahideen planning to capture Kabul

The commanders Shoora of all the seven major political organisations of mujahideen in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, had their sixth session on April 21 near Kabul city, reports ANA.

Reliable sources of the mujahideen told ANA that 63 prominent commanders of mujahideen attended the meeting, which would continue for evolving a joint strategy for the capture of Kabul.

The commanders divided the province in three military zones. Zone first comprised Sarobi, Bagrami and Char Asyab, zone second comprised Deh Sabz, Qara bagh, Meer Bachakot, Shakar Dara and zone three included the Paghman and Char Dehi districts.

All the zones will be interlinked with strong wired communication enabling mujahideen to launch a simultaneous attack on the capital. The sources further told that the heavy melting of snow and the torrential rains has inundated the supply routes of mujahideen. The weather conditions will not permit mujahideen for another long month to launch their operations on Kabul.

The source further disclosed that the commanders Shoora were extending their invitation to even individual elements of other smaller organisations to join them in a decisive action against the puppet regime.

MUSLIM APR 24

Mujahideen to attack Kabul in August

From EHSAN SYED

SARGODHA, April. 23: Afghan Mujahideen will march on Kabul in August this year and overthrow the Najib Government. This was stated here yesterday by Dr. Amjad Chughtai, Amir Jamaat Islami, city, while addressing newsmen at the local press club. Giving details of his recent visit of Khost he said that besides Pakistani volunteers more than 15 thousand Arab Mujahideen were fighting against government troops alongwith Afghan Mujahideen.

Afghan Mujahideen, captured an important city of military point of view commonly known as little Moscow located 30 kms from Pakistan border in the first week of April after a 17-day battle with government forces. This was a major victory for Mujahideen.

He said that Afghan Mujahideen continue to struggle until the fall of Najib regime. He said that more than 5000 soldiers were captured and 1000 defectors, during the battle over Khost a deserted garrison town with symbolic rather than strategic importance.

He said that Najibullah has accused Pakistan of planning the Khost offensive. He said that Mujahideen over-powered majority of 'askaris' including five army generals, 12000 kalashnikovs 100 guns, 30 tanks, 30 armoured vehicles, 3 gunship helicopters, wireless sets and huge quantity of ammunition. He said that visit of Khost city revealed that the inhabitants of the city had love and affection for Benazir Bhutto and Wali Khan as their portraits were pasted in large number, on the walls of buildings.

Replying to a question Dr. Chughtai said, Mujahideen will not compromise with Najib-government and no power could force them to negotiate with Kabul-based government as they did not acknowledge conciliation or any formula initiated by Saudi Arabia or America. He said that Mujahideen wanted to overthrow Najib with bullet and not negotiations.

MUSLIM APR 24

Mujahideen threaten more kidnappings

MUZAFFARABAD, April 26: A Kashmiri leader pledged on Thursday not to kill two kidnapped Swedes but threatened more abductions to draw world attention to a separatist revolt in Indian-occupied Kashmir.

The Muslim Janbaz Force (MJF) fighter warned of serious consequences unless demands were met for an international probe into human rights violations in Kashmir.

But he said his group would not kill the two Swedish en-

gineers it kidnapped on March 31:

"We will not release them until our demands are met," said the leader.

He gave only his codename Rustam and called himself the MJF's director of operations.

We have no intention to kill these people. We simply want to wake up the conscience of the human society of the globe to see with their own eyes whether what we say is true."

Last week the MJF, in a statement released in Indian oc-

cupied Kashmir, threatened to kill engineers Johan Jansson, 35 and Jan-Ole Loman, 37, after the United Nations and Amnesty International rejected their appeals for an investigation.

Rustam said the two Swedes were in good health and being treated well at a secret hideout inside the Indian-occupied Kashmir Valley.

The Swedes, engineers working on a hydro-electric project, were not deliberately targeted, Rustam said, but he made clear his group planned more kidnappings.—Reuter

400 Mujahideen killed in Logar battle

By Our Monitoring Desk

The Kabul troops have recaptured some parts of eastern province Logar from Afghan Mujahideen after five days of severe fighting, reports BBC.

BBC, quoting Kabul Radio, said that 400 Mujahideen were killed in the battle and main office of their leader, Gulbadin Hikmatyar, was also destroyed.

According to Kabul Radio, Pakistani soldiers were also involved in the fighting. However, the Government of Pakistan has denied this charge.

According to another report, Soviet Union and Afghanistan have criticised Pakistan for supporting Mujahideen. They termed Pakistani intervention in Khost a violation of Geneva Accord.

The Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Abdul Wakil during discussions with Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh on Friday in Moscow, presented many proofs of Pakistan's involvement in Khost.

It may be recalled that Abdul Wakil is visiting Moscow nowadays.

To condemn the 14th anniversary of coup staged in Afghanistan on April 27, 1978 a black day was observed by Afghan Mujahideen and refugees throughout Miranshah and other adjoining tribal areas on Saturday, reports Afghan News Agency.

In this connection a big public meeting was staged in Miranshah which was addressed by representatives of all the seven major political parties of Mujahideen. Prominent among those who addressed the meeting included Mohammad Jamil of Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (Hekmatyar), Maulvi Rasool Mohammad of Ittehad-i-Islami Afghanistan, Prof Sayyaf and commander, Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani of Hia (Khalis).

The speakers, on this occasion, condemned the communist revolution of April 27, 1978 and said that the day brought a dark chapter to the history of Afghanistan. They said that it was because of this revolution that the sufferings of the Afghan nation entered its 14th year while the nation had to sacrifice more than 1.5 million Afghans.

Another district falls to Mujahideen

PESHAWAR, April 25: Lashjwand District in the central Ghor Province of Afghanistan, fell to Afghan Mujahideen while the militia commander of the district fled for his life, reports Afghan News Agency.

A delayed report from the Abubakar front of Mujahideen disclosed that the Mujahideen captured the district on April 5 after killing dozens of regime militiamen. Mujahideen forced the general commander of regime militia, Asif son of Wakeel Yousuf to flee for his life. The Mujahideen also captured 2 ZK-1, 2 Dektarov, 2 PK-machine-guns, one Dahshaka, one Hawan cannon, one cannon and 40 Kalashnikov rifles.

The district is now occupied by Mujahideen under the general command of Mohammad Umar. Complete details of regime and Mujahideen losses were not made available.—PPI

The News
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Mujahideen send missile attack report to UN

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—The Amir of Emirate Islami, the Mujahideen group claiming to control most of Kunar province, has sent the final casualty report on the Asadabad missile attack, to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Perez de Cuellar.

The Amir, Maulvi Jamilur Rehman, has put the number of those killed at between three and four hundred, and the number of wounded as being over 500. These estimates were conservative as compared to the figures previously given by the Mu-

jahideen.

Maulvi Jamilur Rehman described Asadabad as being in full bloom before the missile attack, but now it had been "transformed by the misery of bleeding human beings, crying women and children, and fear."

It would seem that the Kabul government has achieved its objective of striking terror into the province that had once been considered safe. The Mujahideen sources also reported the destruction of over 400 shops and houses completely destroyed, a poultry farm, two offices of Arab rehabilitation committees, a foreign relief

agency workshop, ten offices of Emirate Islami, and several other buildings besides ten vehicles.

The Amir, in his appeal to the UN Secretary General claims that the Kunar administration was democratically elected and that the attack on Kunar, by the Kabul regime, constituted a breach of its own resolve not to attack areas where rehabilitation was taking place.

Previously Kabul had promised to create a "zone of peace" in the border provinces to encourage the refugees to return. Now it seems that the Kabul regime has suppressed its desire.

The News

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**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES OF PROF. MUJADDIDI
AND PROF. RABBANI FOR LIBERATION OF KHOST**

"The great victory achieved by the Mujahideen in Khost during the month of Ramazdan is commendable. I congratulate all the Mujahideen, especially those who participated in the fighting. I urge all the commanders to continue their unity and sincerity which have produced positive results. All the commanders must treat the defectors, prisoners, and those wounded in the war kindly and mercifully with an Islamic spirit in order to receive more Mercy from Almighty Allah." This was stated by Prof. Sebghatullah Mujaddidi in a message released to MIDIA. He also urges the commanders of Khost to provide security in the liberated city and safeguard people's lives and property. Prof. Mujaddidi further says that he has requested ICRC to cooperate in treatment of the wounded POWs, and the organization has agreed. At the end of his message, President Mujaddidi prays for the blessed souls of those who were martyred in Khost, condoles their relatives, and prays for quick recovery of those Mujahideen who were wounded.

In a separate message, Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani, Minister of Reconstruction and leader of Jamiat Islami Afghanistan, has also congratulated the great victory of Mujahideen in Khost to the Muslim Umma in general, to the Afghan Mujahid nation, and particularly to the Mujahideen of Khost who participated in the fighting. He notes that this great victory which took place in Ramazdan is a reminder of the Battle of Badr to each and every Muslim. This is a good omen for the new year (of the Afghan calendar which began on March 21) and Insh-Allah 1370 (after Hijra) will be the year of further victories of the Mujahideen and the year of destruction of the puppet regime and elimination of all traces of atheism and communism from Afghanistan.

Prof. Rabbani also requests the Mujahideen to retain their spirit of cooperation and unity which led to the remarkable achievement in Khost.

Meanwhile Shura Ittefaq Islami in a message released to MIDIA congratulate the liberation of Khost and prays for further victories of Mujahideen.

APR 01

(M I D I A)

PROF. SAYYAF'S CONGRATULATORY
MESSAGE FOR LIBERATION OF KHOSHT

APR 02

In a message released to MIDIA, Prof. A.R.R. Sayyaf, Prime Minister of IIGA, congratulates the conquering of Khost to the Mujahideen who took part in the victorious operations, to the Mujahid nation of Afghanistan as a whole, to the friends of Mujahideen, and to all sincere Muslims! Prof. Sayyaf calls Khost as "a dangerous bunker of the communists and the first home of Khalqis," and expresses his belief that following its liberation "God-willing the bunkers of atheism will be crushed one after the other in the current year until conquering Kabul, the last fort of communism."

Prof. Sayyaf's message requests the Mujahideen to remember God Almighty all the time and to maintain unity and firmness because these are the factors for achieving victory.

Prof. Sayyaf urges the Mujahideen to nullify the enemies' plots and propaganda about the Afghanistan issue by their valour as well as by their noble behaviour. "In liberated areas, treat the people in accordance with the Islamic principles; honor what is trusted upon you; do not damage buildings and other installations," he adds.

The message concludes with prayer for further victories of Mujahideen.

(MIDIA)



ISLAMABAD: Saudi Charge De Affaires Usman Tayyar talking with Afghan Mujahideen leader Abdur Rasool Siyaf in an Iftar Dinner hosted by him.-Staff photo.

MUJAHIDEEN CAPTURE BAGHI MERI'S POSTS

IN KUNDUZ

A Mujahideen source reported to MIDIA that the Mujahideen attacked Baghi Meri's posts, near Kunduz city, the provincial capital, on March 28. As a result, the posts were captured, five tanks and four military vehicles were destroyed and those on board were killed. Six armed soldiers were arrested alive.

In this three long hour operation, the Mujahideen also captured the arm and ammunition depot and all other installations of Baghi Meri. (M I D I A)

MUJAHIDEEN'S ACTIVITIES IN SAMANGAN AND BALKH

According to the reports reaching MIDIA, the Mujahideen under Commander Abdur Razaq launched an artillery attack on one of the important central headquarters of the Kabul puppet regime troops in Baghi Jihan Ara Building in Tashqurghan city of Khulm district, Samangan province, on March 30. They inflicted heavy losses to the regime forces destroyings one B.M-41, eight D.C-cannons, and one big Oragan rocket's depot. The life casualties of the Communist regime troops are not known.

The report added that many residential houses and villages near the Baghi Jihan Ara were damaged when shells of the rockets and missiles hit them after the depots had got fire and exploded. Most of the residents of the said areas were forced to leave their homes.

Meanwhile, the Mujahideen targeted Kabul regime's posts in Mosa Lail area, near Charbolak district, Bulkh province, with artillery, on the same date. The Mujahideen succeeded to enter in to the posts and capture them after pounding them for several hours. Ten soldiers were captured and one was killed. The others left their positions and fled away.

The Mujahideen also took five kalashinkov rifles, one Z.K-machinegun and one R.P.G-7 rocket launcher as a booty. (M I D I A)

MUJAHIDEEN SHOT DOWN A MILITARY TRANSPORTATION PLANE

IN KANDAHAR

Reports reaching MIDIA office in Quetta indicate that a Kabul regime's military transportation plane was shot down while landing at Kandahar airport on March 30. About 30 Communists who were on board were killed along with the crew and pilots of the plane. An anti-aircraft missile was used by the Mujahideen.

(M I D I A)

APR 01



AJK President Sardar Abdul Qayum Khan with Sheikha Ullah Mujaddedi, an Afghan interim government leader, at an iftar party, hosted by Labour Minister Ejaz ul Haq in Rawalpindi Thursday.—Photo by Wajid Zaidi

The News
APR 06

Iranian envoy meets Mujaddedi

ISLAMABAD, April 4: The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Javad Mansouri met Mr. Mujaddedi, President of Afghan Interim Government in Islamabad today, and discussed the latest developments on the Afghan front.

Mr. Mujaddedi briefed Iranian Ambassador on Khost operations. President of AIG expressed the hopes that the fall of Khost will be conducive in bringing about an early settlement to the Afghan issues.

Emphasising the common elements existing between the peoples of Iran and Afghanistan he called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to play a more active role in finding a solution to the Afghan problem. The Iranian Ambassador pointing out Iran's support to the Afghan Mujahideen, said the Iranian government would play its role in finding out a suitable solution that could secure the interests of the entire Afghan Muslim people.—PR

MUSLIM APR 05

Afghans' rally against retrenchment

Over 800 employees of the health ministry of the Afghan interim government removed from the service, staged a demonstration against their retrenchment from the ministry, in front of the health ministry of the AIG here on Wednesday, reports Afghan News Agency.

The sacked employees were later joined by those employees whose names were not yet struck off but were not paid the salaries for the past three months.

The angry employees also damaged the security post of the ministry and accused that the health minister, Said Mohammad Adir Khurram, was an unprofessional person who was pursuing political ends rather than looking after the health problems of the Afghan population. Later the demonstrators dispersed peacefully.

Meanwhile the sources of Jamiat-i-Islami mujahideen have claimed that the mujahideen captured a security post of strategic importance near the Mazar Sharif airport on April 10.

They killed three regime personnel and captured four others. Five mujahideen including commander Ramzan sustained injuries during the operation. The mujahideen recovered five Klashnikov rifles, one machine gun and a wireless set from this post.

The Jamiat mujahideen also reported severe bombing over the mujahideen positions in Jagdalak in Sarobi district of Kabul province on Wednesday.

The material loss was reported at the centre of commander Anwar Khan while casualties reports were not made available.

Mujaddadi leaves for Riyadh

President of the Afghan interim government (AIG) Prof. Sibghatullah Mujaddadi left Islamabad for Saudi Arabia along with a delegation of the AIG on Thursday, reports Afghan News Agency.

The members of the AIG entourage, included head of NIFA and chief justice of AIG Supreme Court, Pir Syed Ahmad Gillani, interior minister and chief of his own faction of Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan, Maulvi Mohammad Younas Khalis, defence minister and chief of Harkat-i-Inqilab-i-Islami Afghanistan, Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, Mujaddadi's sons Najibullah Mujaddadi and Abdullah Mujad-

dadi. A number of other representatives of these three parties also accompanied this delegation.

The AIG delegation will discuss the financial problems of the interim government with Saudi government.

Earlier, Prof. Mujaddadi had a detailed meeting with the American consul in Peshawar at his office and discussed with him his visit to Saudi Arabia.

Earlier, another delegation of the AIG headed by Abdul Qayyum, adviser to Mujaddadi, had also left for Saudi Arabia. Members of the delegation included Hamid Gillani, General Faizullah and General Hashim.

FRONTIER POST APR 12

Sacked Afghan workers stage rally

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—A large number of employees of the health ministry of Afghan Interim Government (AIG), who were recently sacked, staged a demonstration in Peshawar Thursday to protest their retrenchment.

The protestors converged in the offices of the health ministry in the University Town and raised slogans. Enraged demonstrators were also reported to have damaged the security post of the ministry office.

The News

APR 12

Mujadeddi returns from Khost

PESHAWAR—Afghan Interim Government (AIG) President Sibghatullah Mojadeddi has returned to Miramshah after undertaking a visit to Mujahideen-controlled Khost.

Prof. Mojadeddi entered Afghanistan's Paktia province via Kurram Agency, Sunday and toured area north of Khost. He has now reached Miramshah and is planning to travel to Khost city again from its southern side.

He is the second Mujahideen leader to visit Khost since its fall on March. Gulbaddin Hikmatyar had gone there a few days ago.

The News

APR 09

AIG president to meet Afghan contingent in Saudi Arabia

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—The Afghan Interim Government (AIG) President, Prof. Sebghatullah Mojadeddi, left for Saudi Arabia Thursday at the head of a delegation to meet Afghan Mujahideen who took part in the Gulf war and hold talks with the Saudi authorities.

Those who include in the delegation are; the AIG Interior Minister Maulvi Yunis, Defence Minister Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Moham-

madi, Supreme Court Chief Justice Pir Sayed Ahmad Gillani, National Security Minister Haji Din Mohammad, Deputy Health Minister Dr Najibullah Mojadeddi, Gen Abdul Rahim Wardag, and other civil and military officials. A press release said he would stay a few days in Saudi Arabia. It may be added that Prof. Mojadeddi's two sons, Dr Najibullah and Abdullah, also accompanied him on the trip.

It was learnt that the AIG delegation would discuss the financial

problems confronting the Peshawar-based government. The AIG had to lay-off a large number of its employees recently due to financial constraints. The affairs and stay of the Mujahideen contingent in Saudi Arabia are also expected to be on the agenda.

The AIG had sent another delegation to Saudi Arabia in advance as well including Prof. Mojadeddi's adviser Abdul Qayyum, Hamid Gillani, Gen Faizull and Gen Hashim.

Mojaddadi greets Afghans on Eid day

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—President of Afghan Interim Government Professor Sibghatullah Mojaddadi has greeted his countrymen on the eve of Eid ul Fitr.

In a message he pledged to continue his jihad till the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

He asserted that the fall of Khost was a good omen and hoped it would be a prelude to the liberation of Kabul and the whole country.

He was optimistic that the people of Afghanistan would soon be able to celebrate their next Eid under an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

Rabbani condemns Asadabad massacre

The criminal Scud attack by the puppet regime shows that as long as the blood-thirsty murderers reign in Kabul and the Soviet Union provides arms to them peace cannot come to Afghanistan, reports MEDIA.

This was stated by Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of Jamiat Islami Afghanistan and minister of reconstruction in the Afghanistan Interim Government.

He strongly condemned the Scud attack on Asadabad and said the Kabul regime could not justify this senseless massacre in any way.

He said, Scud attack on Khost, can be seen as a revengeful act. Asadabad was liberated about three years ago and the life was returning to normal there. Why should it come under attack?

Professor Rabbani said that the Asadabad massacre gave ample proof to the U.N. and those friendly countries which wanted to encourage the Afghan refugees or put pressure on them to go back to Afghanistan that they were wrong. There is no security in Afghanistan until the criminal puppet regime is removed, he added.

Professor Rabbani was speaking in a function held in commemoration of recent martyrs of Jamiat Islami in Herat supervisory council battlefields and other parts of the country.

Rabbani advised the mujahideen leaders to maintain unity in

their ranks. He warned them about the secret deals and decisions. He also advised them to avoid challenging each other in public and through media.

FRONTIER POST APR 24

Sayyaf slates Scud attack on Assadabad

The prime minister of the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) professor Abdurrah Rasul Sayyaf, has strongly condemned the barbaric Scud attack by Kabul regime forces on Assadabad city, the provincial capital of Kunar province in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday evening, reports Al-Bunyan News Service.

In a telephone message from Quetta, where he is visiting the mujahideen centres, professor Sayyaf termed the attack as a cowardly and criminal act of barbarity on the part of the Marxist regime in Kabul.

While expressing deepest sympathies with the innocent victims, Sayyaf said it was aimed at boosting the low morale of the regime's soldiers and confusing the

world about the growing military success of the mujahideen in Afghanistan.

He said, the communist regime, it seems, has become desperate after crushing defeats at Khost, Dasht-e-Archi and Sheerin Tagab regions.

He said that this dastardly act of terrorism was a part of international conspiracy to weaken the mujahideen and impose a half-infernal government on them in Afghanistan.

Sayyaf vowed to frustrate enemy designs in this regards.

He asked the U.N. to pressurise Moscow to cut off military and political aid to Kabul to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

FRONTIER POST APR 24

AIG alleged in drug case

From Shamim Shahid

PESHAWAR— A drug smuggling case, pending in a local court of law, seems to be a result of inner differences between two high police officers, when an eye-witness to the case, on Sunday named Sikandar Khan, Assistant Inspector-General-Crimes Branch of protecting interest of Lal Mohammad alias Lal Mathi, arrested for trafficking of 69 kilogram of heroin and one kilogram of opium to down country in January, 1990.

Addressing a Press conference at Press Club, eye-witness to the case, Razzaq Hussain working as Supervisor with a local construction company, charged the A.I.G Crimes for working in favour of Lal Mathi and pressurising him to change the statement in the case. He alleged that Lal Mathi was still

raiding his house and harassing his family members but the concerned police officers were reluctant to lodge the complaint. He opined that staff of the West Cantonment Police was directed by the concerned A.I.G for not registering his report against Lal Mathi.

Revealing the whole story, Mr. Razzaq Hussain charged Lal Mathi as member of the international narcotics smuggling gang and enlisted the dates on which Lal Mathi was arrested under drug trafficking charges.

He said that for the first time Lal Mathi was arrested in 1979 and sentenced to eight years imprisonment by the then Martial Law government. However, he was released in 1983-84. In that case he was arrested for trafficking 204 kilogram of charas.

NATION APR 29

US, USSR cannot help Afghans politically: Mujaddidi

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR-The Afghan Interim Government President, Prof. Sibghatullah Mujaddidi has said that nobody can prevent Afghan Mujahideen from setting up an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

The AIG President alleged that Najib Government fired Scud missiles on Asadabad with a view to harass the Mujahideen. He opined that after capturing Khost, the Mujahideen are planning to launch attacks on other cities including Gardez, Jalalabad and Qalat and for foiling such attempts the Najib Government fired Scuds on Asadabad.

The Afghan leader in an interview told *The Nation* that such act of the Najib Government should be condemned widely as it was against United Nations Charter on Human Rights. In this connection, the AIG will lodged a protest with the United Nations, he remarked.

He also said that United Nations and other world countries should force Najib to refrain from such type of attacks on the civilian people living in the Mujahideen controlled areas of Afghanistan.

Commenting on the fall of Khost to Mujahideen, Prof. Mujaddidi termed in a great set back to Najib government and a big achievement of the Mujahideen since withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan. He expressed the hope that Mujahideen will go ahead with such victories and would capture other cities in near future.

Afghan problem was impossible as most of the Mujahideen and refugees were against talking to Najib, he added.

The AIG President admitted that inner differences amongst Mujahideen ranks were the main hurdle in way of the Mujahideen victories. However, despite differences majority of Mujahideen commanders, *ulema*, tribal chiefs and intellectuals support the Interim Government, he claimed.

Levelling serious allegations against Engineer Gulbadin Hikmatyar and Prof. Abdul Rab Rassoul Sayaf, he said that both the forces were conspiring not only against the Interim Government but also creating splits among the Mujahideen which goes in favour of the Najib Government.

Prof. Mujaddidi further said that he along with other leaders of the AIG visited Saudi Arabia at the invitation of King Fahd and exchanged views with him on recent political development.

Answering to a question, he made it clear that neither America nor Soviet Union can find out a durable political settlement to the Afghan problem. He said that Afghan Interim Government should be taken into confidence before launching any move for the political solution to Afghan problem. He also said that Afghan people can control the situation after the fall of Najib Government. He said that all the world countries should assist the AIG for peacefully replacing the Najib Government.

NATION APR 29

AIG main obstacle in way to Afghan solution: Yakunin

RAWALPINDI, April 29: Victor P. Yakunin, the Soviet Ambassador to Pakistan, said the Afghan Interim Government Prime Minister Prof. Abdur Rab Rasool Sayyaf was the main obstacle in the way to finding a political solution of the 12-year-old Afghan issue.

Talking to newsmen informally at the ceremony held here Monday evening to commemorate man's first flight into the outer space, the Soviet Ambassador said, all the three resolutions of the United Nations call for a political solution of the Afghan conflict. In an annoyed tone the ambassador said "Sayyaf is the obstacle in the way to political solution of the Afghan problem. He said the United Nations has barred the use of arms in Afghanistan but still "people were pursuing military options thinking of achieving a military victory", the ambassador said.

He said his government and the Government of Pakistan were for political solution of the Afghan problem. The President

By ZAHID HUSSAIN

of Pakistan has also underlined the need to find such a solution, the ambassador observed.

Mr. Yakunin said a political solution to the strife torn country could only be achieved if all the parties to the Afghan conflict sit on the table and talk without the exclusion of anybody. This was an obvious reference to the Mujahideen's condition for the talks that calls for the Najeeb government to step down before any talks could be held.

To a question whether the Soviet Union was still supplying arms to the Afghan government, he replied in affirmative adding that as long as Saudi Arabia and United States give arms to Mujahideen, USSR will continue its assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan. He added his country was for the negative symmetry but the other parties did not agree to it.

To a question about the AIG,

the ambassador said they were a stumbling bloc in the Pak-Soviet relationship. "The fight is between the Afghans and Afghans" and that would not be solved by the force of arms but by sitting on a table. He said that the problem could not be solved by Saudi Arabia or America but by the Afghan peoples themselves.

To a question about the visit of a USSR's envoy to Islamabad to hold talks on the Afghan issue, the ambassador said he did not know anything of this visit. However, he said there was Pakistan's mission in Moscow and the Soviet Union's mission in Pakistan and they were engaged in consultations with each other.

When asked to comment on the Indian atrocities in Kashmir the ambassador declined to comment. However, he said if Pakistan and India could reach other agreements they should also sit on a table and solve this issue as well.

MUSLIM APR 30

Dialogue with Najib is out of question, says Sayyaf

13th anniversary of revolution in Afghanistan observed

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—Rallies were held in some refugee camps in NWFP, condemning the communist Saur Revolution in Afghanistan on Saturday, its 13th anniversary.

A rally in Miramshah was addressed by representatives of some of the Peshawar-based Mujahideen groups, including Commander Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani of Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis), Mohammad Jamil of Hezb-i-Islami (Hekmatyar), and Maulvi Rasool Mohammad of It-

tehad-i-Islami.

The speakers condemned the communist revolution in Kabul. Effigies of Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev and President of Afghanistan Dr Najibullah, were burned while participants chanted anti-communist slogans, reports the Afghan News Agency.

On the same day, Prime Minister of the Afghan Interim Government, Professor Rasool Sayyaf, addressed a similar rally at Pabbi refugee camp near Peshawar.

In a speech to the gathering, Prof Sayyaf outrightly rejected

the possibility of dialogue between the Mujahideen and Kabul government.

"If the Afghan nation had meant to enter into dialogue with the communists they wouldn't have lost 1.5 million martyrs, but would have talked at the beginning of the communist coup," he said, and described anyone who opened negotiations with the Kabul government as a traitor.

The professor said that the regime in Kabul could be overthrown in two ways. Firstly, militarily and secondly by political

means. He said that there were two options for a political settlement; either to talk with the Kabul government directly which "Islam would never allow," or to negotiate through a third party.

However, he also rejected this second political option on the grounds that Islamic countries had too many problems of their own and non-Islamic countries were insincere about the Afghan Mujahideen's cause.

The AIG unlike previous years didn't hold a rally Saturday to condemn the April 27 revolution.

The News
APR 29

Soviet diplomat on prospects of Afghan settlement

Special to *The Muslim*

MOSCOW, March 31: "Afghanistan's neighbours — Iran, the USSR and Pakistan — should do everything within their capabilities to help the Afghans stop the bloodshed and arrange political talks under international control. Such is the view of Iranian officials on the problem of Afghan settlement. It is, on the whole, in consonance with the Soviet position on the matter," Nikolai Kozyrev, ambassador at large with the Soviet Foreign Ministry, told Novosti's Ruslan Burdin on his return from Tehran, where he had conducted talks with Iranian Foreign Ministry officials.

When in Tehran, Kozyrev also met with leaders of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan, comprising nine Shi'ite opposition groups based in Iran.

The Soviet diplomat visited Iran when the situation in Afghanistan deteriorated again with extremist groups of the Afghan opposition launching an offensive on Khost district on the border with Pakistan.

"The tough and not constructive position of Islamabad on the Afghan problem is condemned in Iran," Kozyrev noted, "but it is hoped that Pakistan will eventually join in the common effort to bring about a political settlement."

Tehran, in the words of the Soviet officials, favours coordinated political actions to end the crisis peacefully. It is believed in Iran that Soviet-American dialogue may help Afghan settlement. But priority is still assigned to countries neighbouring Afghanistan.

Iran has lately been making

steps to lessen tensions in the

region. Kozyrev observed contacts between Iranian and Afghan officials have become more regular. Trade and economic ties between the two countries are developing. In

Kozyrev says it is believed in

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tions for contacts between

moderate Afghan opposition

groups and the authorities. This

will create conditions for inter-

national Afghan dialogue and bring

peace nearer.

tor roads in western provinces

of Afghanistan, and on the con-

struction of new highways.

Iran's peacemaking initiative

has begun to develop especially

quickly after the end of the Gulf

war. In Kozyrev's words, the

explanation is simple: Iran takes

a realistic view of the alignment

of forces in Afghanistan and the

improved international image of

the Afghan government, which

assumed a weighed position

during the crisis in the Persian

Gulf. Nor Teheran is unaware of

growing disunity of the Afghan

opposition, which continues to

stake on force. Some extremist

groups which clearly sym-

pathised with Saddam Hussein

during the Gulf war now risk to

lose Saudi and Afghan support.

That may lead to the isolation

and weakening of the extremist

wing of the opposition.

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Iran that there appeared condi-

tions for contacts between

moderate Afghan opposition

groups and the authorities. This

will create conditions for inter-

national Afghan dialogue and bring

peace nearer.

Such views, the ambassador

says, are largely close to the

views of moderate Shi'ite

groups based in Iran. The Shi'ite

"nine", a meeting with which

became a possibility with the as-

sistance of Iranian authorities,

told the Soviet representative

that it condemned armed strug-

gle, which was intensifying the

bloodshed in the country and

the Afghan government, which

assumed a weighed position

during the crisis in the Persian

Gulf. Nor Teheran is unaware of

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groups and the authorities. This

will create conditions for inter-

national Afghan dialogue and bring

peace nearer.

"It is hoped that the direct contacts of that kind will become regular in character and contribute to the cause of Afghan settlement", the Soviet diplomat said in conclusion — IAN

Kabul concedes fall of Khost

NATION APR 01

KARACHI, April 1: The Kabul regime President Dr Najibullah has conceded the fall of Khost garrison to Mujahideen and asked the nation to observe tomorrow (Tuesday) a day of national mourning, according to BBC, monitored here on Monday.

In an address to the nation telecast on Monday, the Afghan President said that all contacts with Khost have been lost and many government troops fighting 'bravely' the opposition forces have either been killed or injured. The garrison town fell a couple of days ago.

The Mujahideen commanders have, meanwhile, imposed an indefinite curfew on the captured town to prevent looting and chaos.

The Kabul regime had, in the past, barely conceded defeat at the

hands of Mujahideen and it is for the first time that President Najibullah has publicly acknowledged the capture of Khost by the rebel forces. He said that the Government had suffered a major setback since the Soviet troops withdrawal. He, however, maintained that fighting was still taking place.

During two weeks of fierce fighting for Khost the Mujahideen forces used much greater fire power including tanks and heavy artillery, than they had in the previous battles.

The Mujahideen commanders warned against any looting bids and reprisals in the captured town as had been witnessed in the wake of Mujahideen's victories in other areas in the past.

Earlier in the day, the Kabul forces were reportedly resisting the attacks of Mujahideen in Khost. The Government jets pounded the Mujahideen positions in the city and several Scud missiles were fired. But there was calm in the evening a few hours before

the Afghan President finally conceded the loss of the garrison town.

Meanwhile, International Committee of the Red Cross has been invited to Khost to oversee the treatment of the prisoners of war and injured Afghan soldiers. Mujahideen sources said that all the resistance groups held POWs numbering over 2000.

Reports said that quite a large number of government soldiers and paramilitary troopers have surrendered to Mujahideen while many others managed to escape.

An earlier report from our Staff Correspondent in Peshawar said.

About 3000 Kabul militia and troops are estimated to have surrendered before the various groups of Mujahideen. Eng. Gulbadin Hikmatyar, Chief of Hezb-i-Islami, who himself supervised the Khost operation, has reportedly summoned a meeting of his central executive committee in Khost on Tuesday to

Continued on back page

Kabul admits losing control of Khost

KABUL (AFP) — Afghan mujahideen fighting the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah have taken control of the airport in the strategic city of Khost, a senior government official here said on Sunday.

The official, who asked not to be identified, admitted late on Sunday that government troops were no longer in full control of Khost.

Earlier, a government spokesman here had denied the mujahideen had captured Khost and said they had launched an offensive near the city.

The latest official report followed a mujahideen announcement that they had taken control of Khost after 17 days of fighting.

The official said he could not confirm that Khost had fallen and added that fighting was still going on.

Government forces "have not surrendered," he said, but admitted that Kabul was "concerned the situation could worsen."

"The airport is now under rocket attack, preventing any aircraft from landing and bringing reinforcements."

The government, he said, was reviewing the situation and planning to send reinforcements as soon as possible.

Mujahideen claimed on Sunday to have captured the strategic Khost garrison of the Afghan army in the eastern Paktia province, ANA reported last night.

Haji Miaki Khan Walkhel, an Afghan News Agency cor-

respondent based in Miranshah, reported that "the Khost garrison in the Paktia province fell to mujahideen on Sunday."

Hizbe Islami (Hekmatyar), Afghan Milli Ittehad (Mujaddadi), Hizbe Islami (Haqqani) and Harkat Inqilabe Islami (Maulavi Mohammad Nabi), were the main commandeering organisations in the area, reported to be populated by more than 70,000 civilians. The field commanders had formed a combined campaign authority to supervise the bid to capture Khost. These commanders were able, recently, to distribute among the local population a pamphlet asking the civilians in the area to surrender to the resistance forces for ensuring their safety and for getting post-campaign relief from the latter. The pamphlet carried a prediction of fall of the garrison, which prompted many hundreds of civilians to abandon their homes and cross over to the resistance groups.

The ANA also reported capturing of the Khost radio station, adding that the garrison's fall was "also confirmed by the sources of the commander Jalaluddin Haqqani." The Soora-e-Inqilab Ittefaq Islami Afghanistan press release issued here late on Sunday night, greeted the mujahideen "on capturing Khost."

The Afghan government's consular in Peshawar was not available for comments.

ISLAMABAD—At least 15 people are reported to have been killed in a Scud missile attack by the government troops on a Mujahideen base in Afghanistan. The missile was fired at a Mujahideen base near the Pakistani border.

The Information Minister of the Mujahideen Government in exile Mr Najibullah Lasei told the AFP news agency that at least 15 people have been killed in the attack on the Khalil Makas Base situated south-east of the city of Khost in eastern Afghanistan. The attack followed reports that the Mujahideen have captured more than 15 government positions and destroyed two transport planes and a helicopter in 48 hours of fighting.

Earlier, the Mujahideen rejected Kabul's claim that the offensive against Khost had been repulsed. They claim to be advancing on Khost's only operative airport—PPI.

NATION APR 01

FRONTIER POST APR 01

APR 01 28 REGIME TROOPS KILLED AND WOUNDED IN KABUL AIRPORT,
IN
ONE JET CRASHED/KABUL SUBURB

Twenty eight soldiers and officers of the Kabul regime were killed or wounded when the Mujahideen of Kohi Safi, northeast of Kabul, targeted the Khwaja Rawash Airport of the Kabul city on March 27. This was disclosed to MIDIA/a Mujahideen source in Peshawar based on a wireless message from the Matyred Waseel front. In their attack, the Mujahideen used surface to surface missiles. Some airport buildings and installation were also damaged.

The same Source reports that a fighter jet of the Kabul regime fell down at Chel-Stoon area, the southern suburb of the Kabul city, on March 29. The cause of the crash is not known. One possibility is that it was hit by the Mujahideen fire while on a bombing mission over Khost. It tried to return to the Kabul airport but fell just few miles short of it. (MIDIA)

APR 01

MUJAHIDEEN OPERATION IN SAMANGAN

Mujahideen under the leadership of commander Saifullah Khan attacked the Kabul regime posts in Kowkjar area of Khulm district of Samangan province on March 31. Twelve militiamen were killed, nine were wounded and three tanks were destroyed. This was reported by Commander Mohammad Islam from Samangan through a wireless message.

The report adds that earlier the Kabul regime's artillery had heavily pounded villages in Khulm. Many houses were destroyed or damaged and a lot of people, most of them women and children, run away to safer areas. The fighting in Kowkjar continues.

(MIDIA)

Kabul concedes fall of Khost

Continued from page 1

review the situation.

Afghan News Agency reported on Monday, the Mujahideen taken control of prison, main hospital, mechanical school, radio station, tank battalion, military workshops, anti-aircraft regiment, military regiment and a number of other installations in the city so far.

The Mujahideen have also shifted about 800 injured and under-treatment patients from main hospital to safer places to protect them against imminent Scud attacks by the Kabul regime.

Hizb (Khalis) commander Jalaluddin Haqqani, who is also in Khost, has also claimed to have some gains in the battle in kind and

arms. His group has captured about 1000 Kabul militiamen, besides a helicopter and a large number of army vehicles.

AID REQUEST: Meantime, President of Afghan interim government Prof Sibghatullah Mujaddidi has in a statement requested the International Red Cross to visit Khost city and provide assistance to the wounded of the 18-day long battle. He assured the ICRC full cooperation.

Mujahideen sources indicate, they might make more attacks on nearby areas including Gardez and Logar to utilise their expertise and the arms and ammunition that they have captured from Khost. A meeting of the commanders may take a final decision in this regard.

APR 01

FOUR SCUD FIRED ON KHOST, 14 KILLED

30 WOUNDED

A reliable Mujahideen source reported to MIDIA that the Kabul puppet regime fired four Scud missiles on the Khost city in the evening of April first. Fourteen Mujahideen and residents of Khost -- including the former militias and soldiers -- were killed and about 30 were wounded. This happened at the same moments that Najib was announcing "National mourning" allegedly for the "martyrs of Khost" but actually for its loss.

The use of Scud by the regime on the city of Khost itself, rather than on the Mujahideen centers around it, shows that the regime not only wants to take revenge from the Mujahideen for liberating Khost, but also to punish the people and militia of Khost for surrendering rather than fighting to death. It is interesting to note that in his speech Najib did not say Khost was defeated or conquered by the Mujahideen. He noted, rather, that the fighting continued until midnight, communication was cut near dawn, but "we are fully confident that until one cell is left alive in the body of the defenders of Khost, they will not relinquish defending their homeland," he added. (MIDIA)

A MILITIA BATTALION DEFECTS TO MUJAHIDEEN
IN ADRASKAN OF HERAT, MUJAHIDEEN OPERATIONS
IN GHOOR AND HELMAND CONTINUES

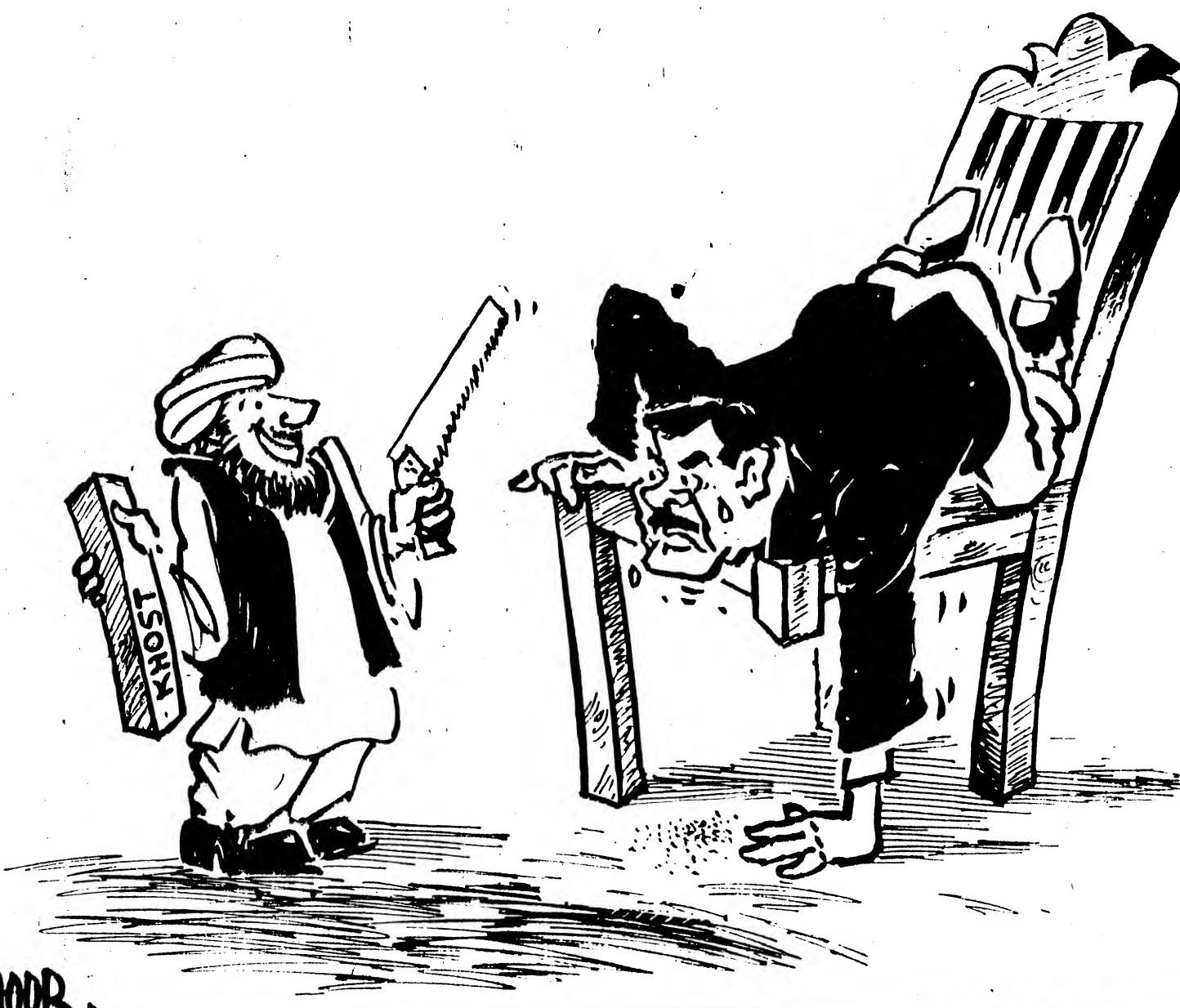
A militia battalion of the regime consisting of 60 militias under the command of Abdul Bari defected to Mujahideen on March 30 on the basis of previous secret contacts with them. The militias, who were positioned in Dobrother area of the Adreskan district of Herat, brought along with them 35 kalashnikovs, one heavy machinegun, one Z.K.-1, four Grenov machineguns, one mortar, one 82 mm howitzer, three trucks, and more than 20 boxes of ammunitions. This was reported by Commander Ismael Khan to MIDIA office in Quetta.

Earlier, the same militia group had attacked the center of Commander Mohammad Akbar's Mujahideen on March 25. Five militiamen were killed and some others were wounded. Three Mujahideen and 20 residents of Adraskan -- including children -- were also martyred by the militia's artillery fire. Secret contacts were established consequent to that futile attack.

According to another report, Mujahideen under the command of Baidad Khan launched an artillery attack on the regime's military base in Lashkargah, the provincial capital of Helmand on March 24. The base was damaged killing six soldiers and wounding a number of others.

Meanwhile, the Mujahideen of "Hazrat Shah Mardan" front attacked the security posts around Cheghcharan, provincial capital of Ghour, on March 27. Three enemy troops were killed and nine were captured. Mujahideen also seized 15 Kalashnikov and 25 boxes of ammunition.

APR 01



ENDOOR.

Mujahideen capture Afghan general in Khost

Whereabouts of other senior officials unknown

By Rahimullah Yusufzai

KHOST—An Afghan Army General is among the more than 2,000 soldiers and militiamen captured by the Mujahideen after the fall of Khost five days ago.

Lt. Gen. Gul Aqa, who was the Commander of the Afghan Army's 25th Division, is being held by the Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis) Commander Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani. He is presently being kept in Miranshah, headquarters of North Waziristan Agency.

The General said he belonged to Logar province. He was sent to Khost after the Saur Revolution in April 1978 to command the Army's 19th Regiment. After a six-year stay, he was posted to Kabul's Military Academy in 1983 to teach armed forces officers. He was rushed to Khost about a year ago when the Mujahideen built up pressure on the besieged garrison.

Gul Aqa maintained that he and his 60 men gave themselves up to Commander Haqqani on March 31 after being impressed by his sincerity of purpose while announcing a general amnesty in a speech on the Miranshah-based Da Mujahideeno Ghag (The Mujahideen Voice) Radio.

Commander Khalilur Rahman informed in Khost that they had no intention of taking revenge from Gen. Gul Aqa. He thought the General could be of some help in their future battles since he knew the Kabul regime's mind and strategies.

Gul Aqa said he was unaware of the whereabouts of other top-ranking Army and Watan party officials present in Khost at the time of Khost's fall. He only briefly met Generals Ghulam Farooq and Shahbaz at Ismailkhel after they had fled their positions at Matun in the face of a Mujahideen advance.

According to information gathered from different sources in Khost, one Regime General named Ghonday, who was a Tani tribesman and was commander of the Tsaranday (police) force, was killed along with his 25 men



General Gul Aqa

during fighting at the Chilan post a few days before Khost's fall. Another General, whose name couldn't be obtained, also died in the 18-day battle for Khost.

Gen. Rahmat Shah, head of the KHAD force in Khost, was wounded in the fighting and later captured by some Mujahideen. His fate is not known since no group has yet announced that it was holding him.

The whereabouts of Gen. Mohammad Ali, general commander of Khost garrison, Gen. Sattar Lakerwal who headed the tribal and border militia, and Munshi Saadat Gul who was Secretary of the Watan Party, was not known either. More intriguing was the disappearance of Afghanistan's Deputy Defence Minister Gen. Nazar Mohammad, Watan Party Central Committee Member Faqir Ahmad Faqiri, and former Khost garrison commander Gen. Ghulam Farooq who had been sent to Khost a few days before its fall to supervise strengthening of the city's defences.

All of them seem to have fled along with some soldiers and militia to the Tani area in Khost province with the help of friendly tribesmen. Some Mujahideen commanders thought they had been given sanctuary by the Tanis. Others think that they have either been captured by some Mujahideen groups or had fled to Paktia's capital, Gardez.

Thousands of Kabul troops captured

KARACHI, April 1: Haji Ali Jan, a Karachi-based Afghan Mujahideen leader has claimed that thousands of Kabul troops have been captured by the Mujahideen since the fall of Khost on March 31.

In a Press statement here on Monday, he saw the "defeat" of Afghan Government forces in Khost as an indication of the beginning of an end of Kabul Government.

He said that two of the most important generals of Najib Army, Lt-Gen Mohammed Ali and Lt-Gen Salman had also been killed during the Mujahideen offensive on Khost.

NATION APR 02

The News
APR 06

Najibullah concedes fall of Khost

Afghan President announces
mourning day; Pak foreign office denies
involvement in the fighting

By Anwar Iqbal

ISLAMABAD—President Najibullah of Afghanistan announced a mourning day to be observed throughout the country on Tuesday following the reported fall of the Khost city.

The official radio Kabul, monitored here at 9:00 pm (PST), broadcast his address to the nation in which he said, Pakistan in collaboration with Afghan mercenaries, launched aggression against Khost about 10 days ago. We were getting reports of fierce fighting from there till Sunday morning, but since then we lost

all links and contacts with the Khost garrison.

This is the first such admission of defeat by the Afghan President since he took charge of Afghanistan in 1986.

The Afghan Mujahideen guerrillas claimed Sunday afternoon capturing Khost, an important city of eastern Afghanistan and the only stronghold of Kabul close to the Pakistani border.

However, their claim was received with uncertainty and suspicion as the rebels had made several such claims since the

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FRONTIER POST APR 07

Najib's desperate calls for help continue

F.P. Monitoring Report

While Afghan mujahideen after capturing Khost are planning attacks on Kabul and other cities of Afghanistan, president Najibullah has been desperately calling for help from other countries — this time from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Philippines.

According to Radio Kabul, President Najib in a letter to the Indian president, Ramaswamy Venkataraman, has drawn his (Venkataraman) attention towards Pakistan's involvement in the seizure of Khost in which a number of innocent civilians had been killed.

Najib said that his country had

always been stressing on resolving the issues politically so peace and security could be brought to the region.

Accusing Pakistan of openly interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, Najib warned that it could lead to a permanent conflict between the two countries.

"India being a neighbouring country of Afghanistan is bound to play a role in resolving the present crisis", the letter concluded.

Similar letters have been sent to the heads of states of Sri Lanka, Nepal and Philippines.

It may be mentioned that Pakistan has repeatedly denied Kabul's allegations.

APR 07

A KABUL REGIME GENERAL AND SEVERAL RANKING

OFFICERS KILLED IN TAKHAR

General Director of KHAD in Takhar, Major General Kabir, Chief of Staff of Division no. 55, and Deputy General of KHAD in Takhar were all killed in a mine explosion. 26. Commander Ahmad Shah Masoud reported in a wireless released to MIDIA.

Dalili,
Director
on March
message

The mine was planted by the Mujahideen of the Supervisory Council in Khwaja Ghar district of the Takhar Province which is under the control of the regime. Major General Dalili and his colleagues were travelling in a jeep. Rasnid, a local militia commander, and some militiamen were wounded in the incident.

It should be noted that after liberation of Taluqan, Takhar's provincial capital, by the Mujahideen in summer 1988, the puppet regime moved the administrative headquarters of Takhar province to Khwaji Ghar.

In a separate incident, the Mujahideen of the Supervisory Council who have infiltrated the ranks of the regime troops exploded two BM-21 rocket launchers by time bombs in a military unit inside the Khwaja Ghar city on March 29.

(M I D I A)

15 killed in Scud attack

Afghan troops heavy concentration in Gardez

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR, April 2: Heavy concentration of Kabul forces has been reported from Gardez which could be the next major target of the Mujahideen following the fall of Khost two days back.

Besides strengthening its defences Kabul may also be thinking in terms of retaliation as suggested by at least five Scud attacks in the Khost sector on Monday. Those attacks caused 15 deaths and wounded more than thirty. However, bad weather over the last two days prevented it from undertaking air sorties and it might have facilitated the resistance victory which could be described as the

Najibullah admits fall of Khost

Continued from page 1

fighting began on March 14.

Meanwhile, more than two million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan began to celebrate the Mujahideen victory in Khost from Sunday evening. At refugee settlements in Miran Shah, a Pakistani town near Khost, rifle shots heralded the celebrations as the refugees embraced each other and distributed sweets. The government of Pakistan, however, maintained a cautious silence. A spokesman for the Pakistan foreign office denied Kabul's allegations of Islamabad being involved in the fighting but offered no comments on the Mujahideen victory.

The News
APR 06

first major win in two years following the Soviet withdrawal.

Afghan sources reporting a meeting between Engineer Gulbadin and Haqqani said they reviewed the post Khost fall situation and the role of the security forces. President Sibghatullah Mujaddadi and Minister Burhanuddin Rabbani have hailed the Khost victory and hoped that it would lead to more successes.

Reports received from across the border said that general Shah Nawaz Tanai, who escaped to Pakistan and joined the resistance after his abortive coup against Doctor Najib, was associated actively with the thrust on Khost. Gen. Tanai also hails from Khost and though a die-hard communists, his contacts in the city had helped the Mujahideen operation which was a joint effort by different organisations.

It added that what really contributed to the capture of the "mini Moscow" was the better strategy by the resistance otherwise this city had withstood the pressure for 12 summers.

Another report from Khost said the Mujahideen were now engaged in consolidating their administrative control over the captured garrison city and busy in removing the dead and wounded. The exact number of dead and injured, however, was not yet available and there are conflicting reports about these losses.

Meanwhile the Afghan military commanders also met in Kabul for several hours yesterday. Reports from the Afghan capital said that retaliation in some form should be expected from Kabul and this could either be in the form of intensified scud attacks and bombing at the Mujahideen concentrations.

AGENCIES ADD: Meanwhile the UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar has reiterated his appeal to all Afghans to end bloodshed and resolve their differences through the political process.

In a statement received in Islamabad on Tuesday the spokeswoman for the Secretary General said Mr. Cuellar has been following very closely the developments in Afghanistan, particularly the recent events in Khost.

Najib troops planning massive attack on Khost

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR-Najib administration removed heavy troops sophisticated weapons and Artillery to Gardez, some 80 km from Khost on Monday night.

According to reliable sources, Najib Government is planning to launch a ground attack on Khost city coupled with air-shelter and for this purpose Najib forces are establishing its positions in Gardez, home town of Dr. Najibullah, Khost, which was liberated two days earlier by Mujahideen is home town of former Afghan Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tanai.

The sources further said that Afghan Mujahideen who captured Khost city were in the range of Scud missiles deployed in Kabul. Most of the Mujahideen are taking refuge in the nearby tribal area for night time. Najib forces fired four Scud missiles on the Mujahideen's positions in the liberated city of Khost on Monday last, which claimed the lives of 20 Mujahideen and the defected Najib troops. About 30 persons sustained serious injuries in the same attacks.

However, Najib Government did not launch air attacks on the liberated city on Tuesday due to whether constraints. According to Peshawar-based Al-Bunyan news service thick clouds over Khost has prevented Afghan fighter to strike Khost targets.

However heavy bombing rocket and Scud attacks are expected any time.

The agency further said that Mujahideen were busy in removing bodies of killed troops. The agency also confirmed killing of 35 Mujahideen which fall pray to Scuds in last two days.

NATION APR 03

MUSLIM APR 03

Kabul's protest against Pakistani 'interference'

Scuds launched against Mujahideen controlled Khost

By Rahimullah Yusufzai

PESHAWAR—Several Scud missiles were fired Tuesday at the Mujahideen controlled Khost garrison from Kabul on a day when supporters of the Kabul Regime mourned the deaths of those killed while defending Khost.

There were conflicting reports as to the number of people killed or wounded in the Scud attacks. The figures provided ranged from three to 35 killed, and many more injured. Mujahideen sources maintained that the Scud landed in

Khost garrison, killing, among others, some Regime soldiers and militiamen.

The Scud attacks couldn't be confirmed by independent sources. One Mujahideen source claimed as many as 35 Scud missiles had been hurled at Khost since the past three days.

There was however no retaliatory bombing by Regime warplanes. The cloudy weather in Khost since the past few days in perhaps one reason why no bombing sorties were conducted. Mujahideen are expecting intense bombing and Scud attacks in the

coming days.

There was no word on whether Regime servicemen fleeing Khost had reached Gardez, capital of Paktia province, or not. It was however felt that they stood a good chance of reaching their destination because most Mujahideen deployed at checkpoints on the Khost-Gardez road had joined the fighting in Khost. The militiamen who fled Khost are all local tribesmen familiar with the terrain. Some of them could even have made good their escape by

This
Continued on Page

Kabul protests against Pakistani 'interference'

This
Continued from page

disguising as Mujahideen.

Some Mujahideen are also bitter over the escape of about 1,000 Afghan families from Khost area to Pakistan's Kurram Agency. They have been derided as the militia which defended Khost, Jaji Maidan and other Regime strongholds for the past many years. By taking refuge in Pakistan, these people have now attained the status of refugees and are relatively safe.

Meanwhile, Radio Kabul reported that meetings were held in Kabul and other cities Tuesday on the occasion of the "mourning day" announced by President Dr Najibullah yesterday to mourn Khost's "martyrs". Mostly, these meetings condemned Pakistan for committing aggression on Khost. Still, the government has yet to publicly concede Khost's fall.

According to the Radio, Afghanistan's National Assembly

(Milli Shura) met under Speaker Khalil Abawi Tuesday and approved a resolution which blamed Islamabad for interfering in their country's affairs and violating its sanctity and integrity. An appeal was made to the Afghans to join hands to foil Pakistan's attempts to divide Afghanistan. Another appeal urged the world at large to restrain Pakistan from threatening international peace through its acts of aggression against Afghanistan.

The resolution noted that Pakistan launched the aggression at a time when Kabul's national reconciliation programme was making headway.

The Radio also reported a meeting between Dr Najibullah and United Nations officials in Kabul Tuesday. Dr Najib was reported to have expressed concern over Pakistan's involvement in the battle for Khost and urged the UN to play an active role to put an end to the bloodshed.

Meanwhile, Mujahideen news agencies headquartered in Peshawar reported an escalation in military operations against the Kabul regime throughout Afghanistan in the wake of Khost's fall. There was mention of operations in Herat, Faryab, Kandahar and other provinces. It was understood that Commander Ahmad Shah Masood had sent a message to Peshawar informing of his intention to start operations against the regime's only remaining base in Takhar province at Khoja Ghar. He wrote in his message that differences between his Jamiat-i-Islami and Hezb-i-Islami (Hikmatyar) had restrained him from launching military activities in northern Afghanistan thus far. Meanwhile, AIG President Sebhhatullah Mojadeddi, Jamiat-i-Islami Chief Burhanuddin Rabbani, and a shiite party Shura, Ittefaq Islami has sent messages felicitating the Mujahideen on the Khost victory.

The News

APR 03

Najib seeks Iran, Turkey's help to stop 'Pakistan's interference'

Afghan envoy claims Kabul will recapture Khost soon

By Anwar Iqbal

ISLAMABAD—The Afghan Presi-

dent, Najibullah, wrote to the presi-

dents of Iran and Turkey

Wednesday seeking their help to

halt, what he called, Pakistan's in-

terference in Khost.

Radio Kabul, in its 8.30 pm

main news bulletin, read excerpts

from the letters accusing Pakistan

of

funding the rebels.

He told journalists that Kabul

will recapture it very soon."

However, he charged that

Pakistani troops supported by

tanks, rocket launchers and ar-

tillery, led the Mujahideen into

Khost, about 100 miles South East

of Kabul.

He claimed that attack on

Khost caused a large number of

civilian casualties among the city's

Meanwhile, an Afghan official

with close ties to President Najiboul-

lah admitted Tuesday that Khost is

now in Mujahideen's hands.

According to a report moni-

tored here, Ahmad Sarwar, Kabul's

Ambassador to New Delhi, who is

also a brother of Najibullah's wife,

said: "Khost has fallen to the

rebels."

He told journalists that Kabul

will recapture it very soon."

However, he charged that

Pakistani troops supported by

tanks, rocket launchers and ar-

tillery, led the Mujahideen into

Khost, about 100 miles South East

of Kabul.

He claimed that attack on

Khost caused a large number of

civilian casualties among the city's

50,000 people and that the city

was "looted and robbed" after the

battle. "In the battle with the rebels

some soldiers and officers of the

Afghan Army were martyred and

hundred of innocent people, in-

cluding women and children, were

killed."

He did not confirm or deny the

Mujahideen's claim that they have

captured about 2,000 soldiers as

prisoners of war.

He said the communication be-

tween Kabul and Khost had been

disrupted but did not say how he

got the information on the situa-

tion without communication link.

The Afghan ambassador said

the United States, a key backer of

the Mujahideen, had not disavowed

support for the attack on Khost,

but he backed away from sugges-

tions that US officials sanctioned

Pakistani involvement in the as-

sault.

"Recently, we have seen some

very flexible changes in the Amer-

ican policy towards Afghanistan

and for solving the problem

through political means," Sarwar

observed. "This is why it is difficult

for us to accept that Washington

supports military action," he said.

"The Mujahideen never discuss

their operations inside Afghanistan

with us... No Pakistan took part in

the Khost offensive and there was

no military adviser on the front,"

said a foreign office spokesman in

Islamabad when asked to comment

on these allegations.

The News

APR 07

Najib asks Iran, Turkey to stop Pak 'involvement'

By MOHAMMAD ZAHID

Afghan president Dr. Najibullah seems to have lost confidence in Kremlin as he has asked Iran and Turkey to use their influence in bringing peace to his war-torn country "by persuading Pakistan to stop its interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan", Radio Kabul reported on Wednesday night.

In separate letters to presidents Hashmi Rafsanjani and Turgut Ozal, he gave details of the 12-year-old Afghan crisis and accused Pakistan of militarily interfering in his country. This is a charge which Pakistan has repeatedly denied.

About the fall of Khost to mujahideen, Dr. Najib claimed that his regime had proofs of the contacts

of Pakistani military officers with the Afghan opposition, Kabul, he said, had already informed the U.N. officials and urged them to put an end to "Islamabad's involvement". He lamented that Pakistan had increased its involvement at a time when he had extended a hand of friendship along with an offer of talks with Islamabad. He warned that if the hostile policy of neighbouring country was not stopped it could jeopardise the security of the whole region.

He expressed the hope that being Muslim countries, Iran and Turkey would use their good offices in bringing peace to Afghanistan.

Dr. Najib's latest manoeuvre is important not for the reason that

he has sought Teheran and Ankara's support in restoring peace to his country but for why he bypassed his traditional ally, Moscow at this crucial juncture.

It may be mentioned that Kabul regime's frustration has surfaced after Soviet Union's rôle in the Gulf war.

Interestingly Radio Moscow too, which in the past used to highlight events in Afghanistan, did not give due coverage to the collapse of Khost to Kabul's expectations.

Najib's desperate calls for help to Iran and Turkey and Soviet Union's cold response to Khost show it is likely that Kabul regime will have more hardships in store for it.

Kabul's protest against Pak interference

F.P. Monitoring Report

Pakistan's Charge de Affaires to Kabul was summoned to Afghan foreign ministry on Thursday and strong protest regarding "Pakistan's involvement in the Khost offensive" was lodged, Radio Kabul reported.

The diplomat was told to ask his government to desist from interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. He was also reminded that Afghan POWs and injured persons, captured by mujahideen should be treated according to the Geneva Accord.

Pakistan has repeatedly denied Kabul's allegations.

FRONTIER POST APR 05

Kabul planes heavily bomb Khost

PESHAWAR, April 4: After two days lull in the aerial bombing due to thick clouds over the captured garrison of Khost, the regime resorted to heavy bombing of the town on Wednesday, reports Afghan News Agency. Mujahideen on Thursday downed a regime jet over Khost which crashed behind the General Hospital of the town at around 11.00 a.m.

Five Mujahideen were killed while a number of others sustained injuries at different places in the town in the aerial bombings on Wednesday. The bombings in most cases missed the targets as the planes dropped bombs from a very high altitude in their bid to avoid Mujahideen artillery and stinger fire.

The city also received a Scud

fired from Kabul yesterday which crashed near Matun Ghundai but caused no damage as it missed the target.

Meanwhile, in another report the ANA said that Mujahideen of Hezbe-i-Islami Afghanistan took over control of the Jaji Jaydan district of Paktia province.

The district was occupied by Mujahideen after the besieged militia numbering about 1200 fled to Malikhel Injurram Agency along with their family members.

The Mujahideen seized some heavy equipment.

Nearly two hundred diehard Communist family of the militiamen comprising 3000 to 3500 members reached Mali Khel, Kurram Agency the other day.

The families were received by the Shia tribesmen at the Pakistani soil. They have reportedly established contacts with the Pakistani officials and have requested for succour and shelter. A same number of families joined back the Mujahideen in the district and were resettled there.

MUSLIM APR 05

NATION APROS

-NAXIN-



ZAHAR.

FRONTIER POST APR 6



Najib continues hue & cry against Pakistan

F.P. Monitoring Report

As a part of anti-Pakistan campaign, which Kabul regime has started since the fall of Khost to mujahideen on March 31. President Najibullah on Friday sent letters to the heads of several Islamic countries asking them to pressure Pakistan to stop 'interference' in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The letters which had been sent to King Hussein of Jordan, PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Tunisian President Zain al-Abadeen, Algerian President Chadli ben Jaid, Libyan leader Col. Qaddafi and President Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen, alleged that due to Pakistan's direct involvement and military assistance to mujahideen, Khost had fallen to them (Afghan opposition).

As a result of mujahideen's attack on Khost a number of innocent civilians, including children, had been killed.

Radio Kabul giving some

excerpts from the letters term it as "direct involvement and naked aggression" against the Geneva Accords.

Afghanistan, President Najib said he wanted good relations with Pakistan and expressed the hope that Islamic countries would take steps to stop further bloodshed in Afghanistan.

Najibullah had earlier sent the same letters to the presidents of Iran and Turkey.

Earlier on Friday Radio Kabul in its English service also criticised the Afghan cell established in Pakistan. While referring to the cell's recent meeting in Islamabad, the radio said, that the cell had no right to interfere in the Afghan affairs.

Meanwhile, Kabul regime's air force has been continuing air raids on the mujahideen positions in Khost. The aim of air bombing, AIR said, was to weaken mujahideen's stronghold on the city so that they could not use it as political and military base for future

attacks on Kabul regime.

Indian foreign ministry, meantime, has expressed its concern over the resumption of war in Afghanistan. A foreign ministry spokesman in New Delhi on Friday while criticising "foreign elements" involvement in the war termed it as against the norms of Geneva Accords and U.N. resolutions.

BBC in its report from Khost said that mujahideen leader Gulbadin Hekmatyar had warned that those elements who were claiming the capture of Khost had been sowing seeds of discord among the mujahideen. Apparently he was pointing towards Jalaluddin Haqqani.

Hekmatyar has directed his men to encircle Kabul for attack in near future. Haqqani is planning to launch offensive against other small cities. BBC Islamabad correspondent in her despatch said that mujahideen had got 'assistance from ISI' in the Khost offensive.

FRONTIER POST APR 06

Kabul's propaganda drive against Pakistan

From MURTAZA MALIK

PESHAWAR, April 6: Kabul has started a slanderous diplomatic offensive against Pakistan with the reports from the Afghan capital saying that Dr. Najibullah has addressed letters to a number of heads of states in Eastern Europe and in other regions accusing Islamabad of direct involvement in the Khost operation - a charge Pakistan has vehemently denied.

Najib started this operation immediately after the fall of Khost, which the resistance had been trying to capture for almost a decade but could not succeed in piercing through the formidable defence till they

were able to make quiet inroad into the heavily defended city. Internal support from the "mini Moscow" made their task easier and jolted the Afghan government, which believed Khost to be invincible. Kabul based its assessment on two accounts— firstly the strength of its military men and machines and the support of the diehard communist population, and the back up air cover coupled with the scuds which Kabul thought could foil any ground offensive.

Despite these plus points Khost eventually fell and now the Afghan government thought that some foreign in-

volved backed resistance attack and it was within four days of the Khost operation that Kabul accused Pakistan of physically and actively helping the Mujahideen.

But at the same time Radio Kabul in one of its broadcast, when the fighting was half way through, offered cooperation to Pakistan in trade and commerce in the wake of a political settlement of the 12-year old problem which even the Geneva accord, supported by both the superpowers involved in the conflict, had failed to resolve. Seen in the background of the accusations,

Contd. Page back

MUSLIM APR 07

Kabul's propaganda

From Page 1

the offer was nothing more than a feeler as it was obviously neither feasible in the prevailing scenario nor acceptable to Pakistan. Since then, however, Kabul gradually picked up its anti-Islamabad propaganda as it became evident to it that Khost fall was imminent.

Since then, the Kabul posture has become hard. Some observers think that Kabul might be planning a possible retaliation at an appropriate time while the resistance positions were being bombed. The reports from Kabul suggested that the Afghan accusations against Pakistan could be a prelude to a hostile future move on its part.

And so far as the resistance groups are concerned the post victory developments suggest lack of confidence in each other.

The main bone of contention at the moment is the large quantity of arms and ammunition which the Mujahideen seized in Khost. The seizure for the time being was being guarded by Engineer Gulbadin Hekmatyar's men and a part of it had reportedly been shifted to unknown spot for safety reasons. The HIA chief had categorically stated that it would be shared by formula decided earlier. The formula, however, has not been elaborated. Some Afghan sources requesting anonymity feared that the booty could create problem as they claimed that this aspect was being played up by unidentified elements through a whispering campaign.

A media release meanwhile said that Mujahideen com-

manders council based in Khost will be holding a meeting by tomorrow to take decisions regarding the next action. Concerning the Khost refugees, who are presently lodged in different refugee camps in Miranshah, it said they were willing to return to their homes as soon as possible, quoting some elders of the refugees in the camps of Ghulam Khan, Dand and Machs in Miranshah it added that more than 25 thousand families, including 150 Hindu families, who were living in Khost, intended to leave their homes before the attack but, the Kabul forces blocked their way.

Some of the said families who belonged to Tanai tribe, fled to Tanai district near the Khost, and some went to Kabul by planes.



KABUL, (Afghanistan): Two Afghan men stroll towards Martyr's Cemetery 29 March after Friday prayers as their country continues to endure a civil war, now into its twelfth year, in which more than one million Afghans have perished.—AFP.

NATION APR 07

Mujahideen consolidate hold over Khost

Kabul soldiers fleeing to Gardez; Victors report astonishingly low casualties

By Rahimullah Yusufzai

PESHAWAR—As the triumphant Mujahideen busied themselves Monday in consolidating their gains in and around the captured garrison of Khost, there were reports that a considerable number of Kabul regime soldiers and militiamen had fled towards Pakistan's capital, Gardez.

Sources close to Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis) Commander, Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani, informed that 2 Kandak (company) of Regime servicemen escaped by foot the night before Khost's fall and were now reportedly on their way to Gardez located 45 kilometres away.

They were, however, confident that the fleeing force would be trapped at one of the several Mujahideen posts at Nadirshah Kot,

Dwa Manda, Saidkhel, Sato Kandow and Sarotay, before it could reach Gardez.

There were also unconfirmed reports that a Regime military convoy had reached Gardez from Kabul. It was not known whether this convoy intended to reinforce Gardez, which now felt threatened, or aimed at marching on Khost.

The Afghan government has yet to concede Khost's fall. But President Dr Najibullah came close to admitting its loss when he told his countrymen in a television address Sunday night that his government had lost contact with Khost since Monday.

He said problems in supplying Khost due to the closure of land routes and weather conditions

Continued on Page

The News APR 01

Mujahideen consolidate hold over Khost

Continued from Page

contributed to the woes of Khost defenders. He also criticised Islamabad for contributing physically and materially to the Khost offensive.

Radio Kabul also reported several meetings and demonstrations that were staged at Kabul University and some government departments and factories to condemn Pakistan's involvement in the Khost battle.

It added that the government handed over letters to the UN offices in Kabul Monday protesting violation of Geneva accords by Islamabad in Khost. Commentaries and patriotic songs on the Radio meanwhile kept eulogising the bravery of Khost defenders.

All Mujahideen sources reported the capture of enormous war booty. It included helicopters, tanks, armoured vehicles, trucks, jeeps, heavy and light weapons, etc.

It was revealed that the small weapons would be distributed among the Mujahideen and the heavy ones handed over to the political parties and Shuras.

There were conflicting reports as to the number of the captured Regime supporters.

The Afghan Islamic Press reported that 2500 persons had been made prisoners, including about 120 held by Commander Haqqani's men. It added that between 300-600 wounded and sick Regime supporters had also been captured and subsequently handed over to the ICRC. An ICRC team left for Miranshah Monday on its way to Khost to take care of the war-wounded.

A press release issued by the AIG (Afghan Interim Government) President Dr Najibullah Moladaddi's office, said it had requested the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to visit Khost and provide assistance to the war-wounded.

It said the AIG was fully prepared to cooperate with all international humanitarian agencies in the protection and well-being of the wounded and the local population.

According to Afghan Islamic Press, only 73 Mujahideen were killed and 180 injured in the battle for Khost.

The figure appeared astonishingly low, but even Haqqani's several spokesmen claimed only a few Mujahideen lost their lives while trying to enter Khost bazar owing to lack of resistance.

It is now clear that the first Mujahideen forced their way into Khost Bazar at 4.30 pm Saturday. The resistance by the Regime soldiers and militia was overcome by 9.30 pm when Matun Baba post, military headquarters and other government installations fell.

Those resisting to the west of Khost also gave up as the news of the fall of Khost bazar reached them. In the end, it turned into a mass surrender.

Meanwhile, the Afghan News Agency said in a despatch that Hezb-i-Islami Chief Gulbaddin Hikmatyar was in Khost.

He was reported to have called a meeting of his party's executive committee in Khost to finalise plans for future assaults on Gardez and Kabul. He was also reported to have contacted commanders of other Mujahideen groups in a bid to ensure peace in the captured garrison.

The MIDIA meanwhile reported that the 23-member Supreme Shura, which had supervised the Khost campaign, had banned entry into Khost bazar without prior permission. It claimed neither any looting nor indiscipline had been reported thus far.

'Capture of Khost great achievement'

From Our Correspondent

HYDERABAD—Representative of Hizb-e-Islami Afghanistan at Karachi Haji Ali Jan has said that capture of Khost was a great achievement of Afghan Mujahideen.

He was addressing a news conference in JI office here on Saturday.

He said that Khost was the most strategic military point and a stronghold of the Afghan troops, therefore, Mujahideen always wanted its control. Finally they got an opportunity in March and under the command of Engineer Gulbadin Hikmatyar, Moulana Jalaluddin Haqqani and Engineer Faiz Mohammad and others broke the circle of the Afghan troops and conquered Khost.

The Afghan leader said that after capturing key military position, the Afghan Mujahideen would soon control the entire country and then there would be a true Islamic government as envisioned by the people of Afghanistan.

NATION APR 07

Najib protests Pak 'interference'

Afghan President urges Muslim nations to stop Islamabad from violating its territorial integrity

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—Afghan President Dr Najibullah has written letters to several heads of Islamic countries protesting Pakistani military involvement in the battle for Khost and requesting them to use their influence to restrain Islamabad from interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

According to Radio Kabul, Dr Najibullah wrote to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Jordan's King Hussein, Egypt's President Hosny Mubarak, Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, Libyan leader Muammar

3 Afghan brigadiers among Khost POWs

National Islamic Front of Afghanistan captured 306 Kabul men

From Rahimullah Yusufzai

PESHAWAR—Three Afghan army brigadiers are among the 306 prisoners of war captured by Pir Sayed Ahmad Gailani's National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) in the Khost battle who have now been shifted to Peshawar. They are being held in a NIFA facility at Shagal.

NIFA sources said more Kabul regime soldiers and militiamen captured by their Mujahideen in Khost would be transferred to Peshawar in the next few days. A decision to set them free may be taken in the near future.

Those already in Peshawar include 20 officers and 286 soldiers.

The News
APR 08

All of them surrendered to Sattar Khan Kochi, brother of NIFA commander Sher Khan Kochi.

Those surrendering included Brig. Abdul Halim commanding the Garde Khas force in Khost. Brig. Atta Mohammad, who was heading the KHAD force and belonged to Ghazni province, also surrendered. The third surrendering Brigadier was Abdur Rahman from Kabul province, who too was attached to Garde Khas.

The POWs related how they faced severe shortages of ammunition and other essentials during the Khost battle. They said their weapons were rendered useless

due to lack of ammunition supplies. Many of them said they felt relieved on being caught since the long war had exhausted their energies. "We can at least hope for survival after becoming a POW," remarked one soldier.

The POWs also related how Sattar Khan Kochi fearlessly walked into their base along with another Mujahid during the battle for Khost and called upon them to surrender. When their Brigadiers expressed the fear that the Mujahideen might kill them, Sattar Kochi swore on the Quran not to harm them if they surrendered. Only then the 306 soldiers, militiamen belonging to Gilum Jam, Garde Khas and others laid down their arms before the NIFA Mujahideen.

All the prisoners were now waiting for their release. One of the Brigadiers asked a journalist whether they would be freed by Eid ul-Fitr.

NIFA sources said the ICRC officials who had already visited these POWs in Miramshah, had been requested to see them again in Peshawar.

The News
APR 07

Dispute between Afghan groups on distribution of arms

From our correspondent

KHOST—A dispute is reported to have been arisen between two Afghan Mujahideen groups over distribution quota of Kabul Government's weapons seized with the fall of Khost last week.

The rival groups are believed to be headed by Engineer Gulbaddin Hikmatyar and Jalaluddin Haqqani. Afghan rebel sources say the Hikmatyar group seized most of the weapons including tanks and helicopters from an important government installation near Khost.

Commander Haqqani's men who control the administration of the city are said to have complained that they and other rebel groups are not being given the due share.

The two leaders recently met to resolve the issue and further efforts are underway to root out such differences among the Mujahideen.

Kabul protesters allege Pakistan meddling into Afghan affairs

PESHAWAR—A demonstration was staged for the second consecutive day at the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul Sunday to protest Islamabad's interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. The demonstrators especially alleged that Pakistan was involved in the battle for Khost.

According to Radio Kabul monitored here Sunday, the demonstrators included Ulema, students, women, and people belonging to Paktia and Khost provinces.

They placards carried by the protesters and the slogans raised on the occasion warned Pakistan of serious consequences if it continued interfering in Afghanistan's affairs.

The Radio also reported that the people, after the mid-day prayers, in several Kabul mosques condemned Pakistan for the bloodshed in Afghanistan.

Kabul ready to talk peace

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—Afghanistan's prime minister Faizal Haq Khaliqi has said his government was ready to talk peace with all the parties to the Afghan conflict in a bid to stop bloodshed. According to Radio Kabul, he told a meeting of Mosharano Jirga (Senate) in Kabul Sunday that the Afghan problem could only be resolved through political means. He however regretted that some elements were still talking in terms of a military solution.

Coup attempt against Najib

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD—A coup attempt against Najibullah's government is reported to have been unearthed. Kabul regime has arrested 40 of its senior officers including the Deputy Defence Minister, Nabi Azeemi. It was the fourth attempt of its kind during the last four months.

Meanwhile, Engineer Gulbaddin Hikmatyar claimed that some of Kabul regime's senior officers were in close contact with the Mujahideen.

The News
APR 06

Khost bombed by Kabul

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—At least four Mujahideen were killed and 12 wounded in aerial bombing by Kabul Regime warplanes on Khost yesterday.

Reports reaching Peshawar said the four persons were killed when their truck carrying war booty from Khost was hit by a bomb at Matta Cheena.

The victims, including a father and his two sons, were on their

way to their village Saidkhel on Khost-Gardez road.

Scud missiles were also fired at Khost yesterday but information about human and material losses was not available. The bombing was reported to have caused some material damages as well.

Meanwhile, the cloudy weather last night and rains in Khost Saturday morning brought a respite in bombing by Regime jets.

The News
APR 08

Afghans protest before Pak embassy

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR, April 6: Kabul Radio in a late evening broadcast on Saturday claimed that a large number of Afghans marched to the Pakistan Embassy today and held a demonstration to protest against what it described the Pakistan intervention in Khost.

The radio added that similar demos had also been held in other parts of Afghanistan.

MUSLIM APR 07

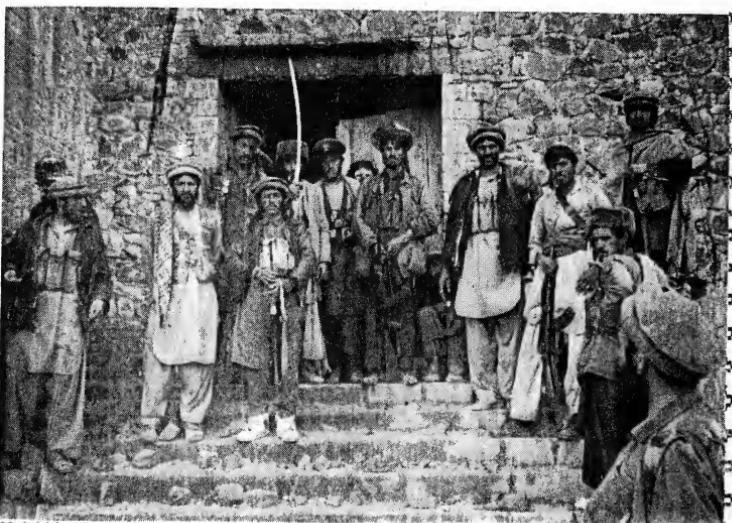
Khost fell due to Najib's wrong policies

From Shamim Shahid

PESHAWAR—One-year long association between former Afghan Defence Minister, Gen. Shah Nawaz Tanai and Engineer Gulbadin Hikmatyar, Chief of his action Hizb-e-Islami Afghanistan along with direct contacts of US commanders, enabled the Afghan Mujahideen to capture the Khost City, hometown of Gen. Shah Nawaz Tanai, who led successive coup against Dr Najibullah last year remained under siege of the Mujahideen for a long time, but at every stage the Mujahideen were unable to capture it due to its strong strategic position and its people's support for the ruling party.

Besides, the Mujahideen were also encouraged when a number of commanders without approval from AIG formed a joint *Shura* of 3,000 commanders. The massive attack started on Khost on March 15 was directly supervised by a 30-member Supreme Council of this *Shura*. Prominent commanders of the *Shura* included Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani, Abdul Haq, Mohammad Amin Wardag and Akhtar Mohammad Khan. The joint operation was actively participated by the Mujahideen affiliated with various component parties of the AIG. Engineer Hikmatyar who had suspended his party membership in Interim Government one and a half year ago was also present near the 'host throughout the operation.'

The Mujahideen's efforts against the government troops stationed in Khost were also made easy by the rough weather due to which Kabul aops could not set fresh ammunition supply. Najib Government's Chief Commander Mr Gul Aga who after the fall of host City was arrested confessed at due to bad weather they failed to get fresh army and ammunition. He was of the opinion that the Mujahideen could not have captured the City if the Government troops did receive help.



Mujahideen standing at the entrance of an ammunition depot after capturing Khost.

With the fall of Khost to the Mujahideen, about 2,200 government troops surrendered. The Mujahideen also captured huge quantity of weapons including tanks and helicopters. The number of casualties from both the sides are still unclear, but the eyewitness says that it could be more than 1,000. It was also learnt that a great number of Mujahideen and their supporters have lost their lives as a result of severe bombardment by the Afghan planes.

The mistakes of the Najibullah Government could not be ignored for the fall of Khost City. The first mistake was premature transfers of his diplomats from Peshawar. One year ago, Kabul administration had transferred one of its seasoned diplomats Gul Aga who had established fruitful contacts with the local politicians as well as with

some of the eminent Afghan Opposition leaders and the Mujahideen commanders. Recently Najib Government replaced another well informed diplomat, Mr Zaiul Haq Zalmey with another diplomat Abdul Qayoom. Mr Zalmey, who remained in Karachi for several years had also developed good relations with some of the insurgent leaders.

The second mistake of the Najib Government was when it announced unilateral ceasefire as a mark of respect for the Holy month of Ramazan. The Najib Government, since the announcement of its national reconciliation policy every year declares ceasefire during Ramazan and Muharramul Haram, but the Mujahideen never agreed to such ceasefire. This time, the Najib Government announced the

one-sided ceasefire two days before Mujahideen's attack on Khost which made their operation very easy.

Now the question arises whether the Mujahideen would maintain their unity they demonstrated during the Khost war. But it seems that differences developed among them soon after the fall of Khost. It became true when Engineer Gulbadin Hikmatyar refuted Mujahideen claim of joint *Shura* efforts for the operation. It was also reported that the joint *Shura* stalwarts are hatching a conspiracy against the AIG leaders.

Differences which have developed among Mujahideen are dangerous to their future and could took them away from their common goal which is establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan

NATION APR 08

Khost victory will lead to Kabul govt's fall

From S.M. WASEEM

HYDERABAD, April 7: Representative, Hizb-e-Islami, Afghanistan stationed at Karachi, Haji Al Jan has said that the capturing of Khost military position by the Afghan Mujahideen was a great achievement which would prove to be a final course in burying the stinking bodies of the stooges of puppet government and destroying the idols of anti-Islam forces.

He was addressing a news conference at JI office Saturday. He said that the Afghan Mujahideen who were imbued with the spirit of Islam and Jihad and committed to the complete elimination of imperialist and expansionist forces had launched the holy crusade against a super power, and at last forced it to flee after a long fight. But, he added its proteges, were still resisting for their very survival which would also be annihilated soon.

Elucidating the victory of the Afghan freedom fighters at Khost he said it was the most strategic military point and a stronghold of the puppet government. From the very outset the Mujahideen had in mind to capture in anyhow for which they had always surrounded it and remained waiting in the wings to attack the post as and when they got a chance. At long last, they got an opportunity and in March, the Mujahideen under the command of Engineer Gulbadeen Hikmatyar, Maulana Jalaluddin Haqqani and Engineer Faiz Mu-

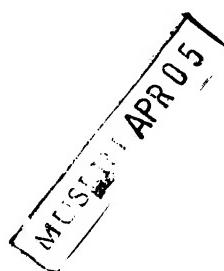
hammad and others broke the circle of the puppet soldiers and captured the position. Thus the valiant Afghan fighters occupied 51-brigade headquarters, anti-air craft brigade, tank squadron, workshop, 4-artillery, frontier brigade, tank battalion, 666-commanders brigade head-

quarters, sarandoti brigade, 25-brigade, wireless station, radio station, military mechanical college and other important installations including important record and equipments.

Besides, the Mujahideen had also seized two helicopters in good condition, fifty tanks, 150 artillery vehicles, fire-brigade engine, thousands of kalshnikovs rifles, and a large quantity of other ammunition and equipment.

The puppet government also had to lose its two key general i.e. Khost commander, Lt. Gen. Muhammad Ali and Lt. Gen. Salah mall, he added. The Afghan leader said that after the capture of the key military position, the Afghan Mujahideen would soon control the entire country and then there would be a true Islamic government as envisioned by the people of Afghanistan.

HYDERABAD NEWS



Khost: the Gulf fallout

The Afghan Mujahideen's spectacular victory at Khost has provided a surprisingly quick dampener for the Western euphoria over its perceived stemming of the rising tide of Islamic resurgence through operation 'Desert Storm'. Washington has deemed it expedient not to let the convincing display of the 'fundamentalist' Afghan Mujahideen's prowess spoil the festive mood in the West over Iraq's devastation. Hence, America has been quick in welcoming the fall of Khost — notwithstanding the fact that it has, since the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, not only publicly opposed the prospect of Mujahideen's military victory, but has also viewed the 'fundamentalist' groups of Afghan freedom fighters with particular distrust. And rightly so.

The Hizb-i-Islami Afghanistan led by Engineer Gulbaddin Hikmatyar, which has been in the forefront of the battle for Khost, is, without a doubt, the epitome of all which the West has come to dread by way of Islamic revival. When the US strategy for this part of the world (if it is strategy, at all) was shaped by the American desire to bleed the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, the religious zeal and the militant nationalistic fervour spearheaded by the Hizb-i-Islami naturally made Hikmatyar one of the most effective leaders to conduct the Afghan Resistance. At any rate, in its typically knee-jerk responses to the successive challenges posed to its imperial interests in the Muslim Third World, America had thought it best to encourage religious identities in the region consequent to the success of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. The painting of the same affiliations in the derogatory colours of 'fundamentalism' came a little later.

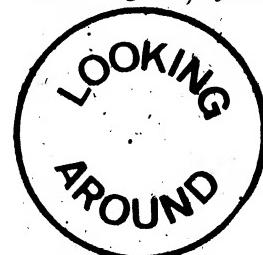
But there is not much you can achieve extraneously to frustrate as motivated and dynamic a movement for national emancipation as has been conducted by the valiant freedom fighters in Afghanistan for well over a decade now. Specifically in the

context of Afghanistan, America did succeed in the event to stall the military advance of the Mujahideen for almost two years. Washington was able to achieve that through a set of op-

past. From some of the remarks made by Gulbaddin Hikmatyar subsequent to the capture of Khost, it has become evident that the militarily effective hardcore of the Resistance does not

By GHANI JAFAR

portune and contrived circumstances in both Pakistan and Iran. However, the apparent inertia induced in the Afghan Resistance through such strategems actually helped the freedom movement in the ultimate analysis, through highlighting the real intentions of Washington as also through clarifying the role subservient to Washington being played by the so-called 'moderate' politicians among the Afghan Mujahideen.



The Gulf crisis came as a litmus test in this regard. Even as the joint conduct of the Western powers against the Muslim people of Iraq helped remove any possible misgivings about Western preferences on the shape of things in Afghanistan, the 'moderate' Mujahideen's active support for the anti-Iraq Alliance went a long way in making this brand of quislings even more irrelevant to the dynamics of the Afghan question.

The 'moderates' had been given predominant positions in the still-born Afghan Interim Government put together at US behest in the wake of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. The logic was obvious: To somehow cheat the Mujahideen of their duly-earned fruits of victory. Then followed the Jalalabad fiasco which was meticulously structured to discredit the Mujahideen's ability to inflict a defeat on the Kabul regime.

All that is now a thing of the

any longer have the patience to let the struggle be bogged down by the instruments of Western machinations among the Mujahideen ranks. There can be no doubt that the hardline Mujahideen would have felt encouraged to take the unmistakably militant posture in both word and deed by the popular Afghan reaction to the atrocities committed by the Western Alliance and its camp-followers on the Muslim masses in the Middle East.

America is unlikely to have taken into account the territorially-removed but emotionally-linked fallout of the Gulf tragedy in such scenarios as the ongoing movement in Afghanistan. But chances are that the pent-up passions of radicalised Muslims, provoked all the more by Western excesses in the Middle East, would manifest themselves even more tellingly in Afghanistan in the days ahead. The same could be the case in other situations where Muslim masses are mounting struggles to secure emancipation from foreign rule, not excluding Palestine and Kashmir. As for the latter, there has already been a marked increase in militant activities by the freedom fighters in the past few weeks.

Among all these volcanic eruptions right on its doorsteps, however, it is difficult to make out how Pakistan, officially, views these developments; or if our political leadership has even the foggiest about what they entail for this country and its vital strategic interests. The least that our Prime Minister could have done was to utter perhaps only a very mild appreciation of Khost's going out of the control of a party which had often used the strategic stronghold to undertake acts of aggression against Pakistan.

It is hard to recognise Mian Nawaz Sharif as the same person who was once quite enthused about the Afghan cause. But, surely, there can be no harm in at least being visible on the national and international scene in support of the Afghan cause, just when all the sacrifices made by Pakistan, and initiated by the Prime Minister's political mentor, General Ziaul Haq, are coming to fruition. Pakistan's interest in the Afghan question has all along been determined by the desire to neutralise the potentially volatile Western flank. Are we going to fritter that away after all these years? Even if we must look at Washington for all policy directives, we could take courage from the American reaction in welcoming the fall of Khost after having worked so diligently to forestall just such an eventuality.

It is too late in the day for any government in Pakistan to disown the freedom struggle in either Afghanistan or Indian-occupied Kashmir. The people of this country have too heavy a sentimental investment in both the situations. It is time for the elected government at Islamabad to take the lead of the nation in expressing solidarity with the fellow Muslims in Afghanistan and occupied Kashmir. Engineer Gulbaddin Hikmatyar is reported to have extended an invitation to the Pakistan Prime Minister to visit the liberated Khost. Mian Nawaz Sharif should seize the opportunity to get himself on the right side of his people and history.

What our rulers ought to realise is that the Afghan Mujahideen's victory at Khost is the best thing that could have happened to the Muslims in all parts of the world who had been so terribly shaken by the Western butchery of the Muslim people of Iraq. Even if our government had chosen through its conduct to add insult to this universal Muslim injury, perhaps it can still make amends by joining this nation's moment of joy over the Mujahideen's watershed victory at Khost.

MUSLIM APR 08

Whereabouts of top military officials not known after Khost's fall

ISLAMABAD (PPI) — The Afghan mujahideen sources say that almost one week has passed since Khost was captured but there has been no report of death or otherwise of some high ranking military officers or civilian officials of the Kabul regime.

Similarly, the mujahideen have carried out attacks on the Kabul regime positions in some northern Afghan provinces.

According to VOA these sources say that at the time of surrendering of almost 2,000 Kabul regime troops and militiamen, the commander of 25th brigade, Brigadier General Gul Aqa alongwith his 60 soldiers and officers had also surrendered to Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani. A cameraman of the Afghan information centre, who just returned from Khost had held talks with General Gul Aqa. He said the general had been sent to Khost after the Saur coup de etat. He served as a commander of the 19th unit in Khost for six years. General Gul Aqa said he was called by the Kabul regime to help train the officers. He also said the Kabul regime had sent him as a commander of the 25th brigade in Khost when the mujahideen

increased their pressure on Khost one year ago.

He added that he had no information about the other high ranking officers and officials of the Watan party who were present during the capture of the Khost city. He said he had met with General Ghulam Farooq and Shehzad in Ismail Khel when they left their bases in Maltoon top but information is not yet available about the plight of the general commander of the Kabul regime troops in Khost, general commander of national and militia forces, General Sattar Lakarwal and secretary of Khost, Saadat Gul and a number of other officials of the Watan party. According to reports, there has been no information about the whereabouts of the Kabul regime deputy defence minister, General Nazar Muhammad, a member of the central committee of Watan party, Faqir Mohamad and a former commander of Khost garrison, General Ghulam Farooq who had been sent to Khost a few days before its fall.

The office of shoor-e-najat has said that the mujahideen had planted a bomb on the car of the Khad

chief which exploded and killed him. Along a Lt. General and the political assistant of the Khad a large number of militiamen in Khwaja Gha Woleswali in Takhar province were injured.

The commander of the militia is also reported among those injured. The report said the mujahideen had also destroyed two BM-21 rocket launchers of the Kabul regime during their ambush against the Kabul regime in Khwaja Gha market. The centre of Takhar province has been in the control of the mujahideen and only Khwaja Gha Woleswali in the entire province is in the control of the Kabul regime forces.

The mujahideen sources say that Afghan mujahideen carried out attack against a government supply convoy on its way from Heratan Port to Mazar Sharif in Tashkurgan area of Samangan province. Thirteen government troops were killed and two tanks and seven vehicles loaded with arms and ammunitions were destroyed during the attack. Besides, the mujahideen also captured three lorries of foodstuff. Two mujahideen were killed and the two other sustained injuries.

160 Afghans killed in floods, Kabul facing natural disaster

By FAROOQ KHATTAK

More than 160 Afghan villagers were killed and an estimated 3000 seriously injured in the recent floods and a series of devastating earthquakes which struck various regions of Afghanistan. Severe jolts to the magnitude of 6.5 on the Richter Scale have razed to ground a large number of mud houses in eastern and northern Afghanistan.

The most seriously hit provinces include Baghlan, Balkh, Kunduz, Parwan in northern Afghanistan while Konar, Nangarhar and Laghman in eastern parts and Paktia in the south of the country.

According to the latest information received from across the border, the Kabul regime authorities have deliberately downplayed the actual figures of death toll and material damages. It was learnt from refugees arriving in Peshawar from the region, that in Zabol, Nemroz, Farah and Helmand pro-

vinces, several hundreds hectares of agricultural land was washed away by the floods.

Meanwhile, historic dam of Qargha, located only seven kilometres north of Kabul city, is faced with the danger of erosion and wearing away due to the fast rising water level in the reservoir during the past two year.

The unusual heavier torrential rains have aggravated the situation and water flow is steadily rising to an abnormal level, putting more and more pressure on the brims of Qargha dam.

The Kabul regime authorities are unable to open the gates of the dam to discharge the extra water due to the accumulation of silt.

Informed sources said that a large number of families living in the vicinity of the dam had fled to safer places in rural Kabul, fearing the collapse of the famous dam, once a centre of tourist attraction

in the pre-war years.

If the dam collapsed, it could ravage and wash away hundreds of houses in Kabul city, specially in the low-lying Khair Khana Mena area of the city, where even now the ground floors and underground portions of many houses have been reportedly flooded with water of the dam. Continuous torrential rains have also contributed to the rising of water level in River Kabul to an alarming height endangering many old bridges along its eroded banks. These unusual phenomenon have further added to the miseries of the residents of the over-crowded Afghan capital.

Unconfirmed reports received from sources pointed to the possible eruption of Kohi-Asmae (Asmae Mountain) near the centre of Kabul city where a large crater, measuring some 75 centimetres in width is emitting hot smoke and vapours.

Would fall of Khost lead to political solution?

Has the fall of Khost opened the door to a political settlement of the 12-year old Afghan problem or encouraged the resistance to go in for the military option, is the moot point these days. According to Pakistani military experts Khost itself had no tactical or strategical value.

The possibility, either way, is debatable but at the moment the hawks are apparently having the upper hand as suggested by the victory and the following developments. However, the most important aspect of the whole issue is not being taken into account.

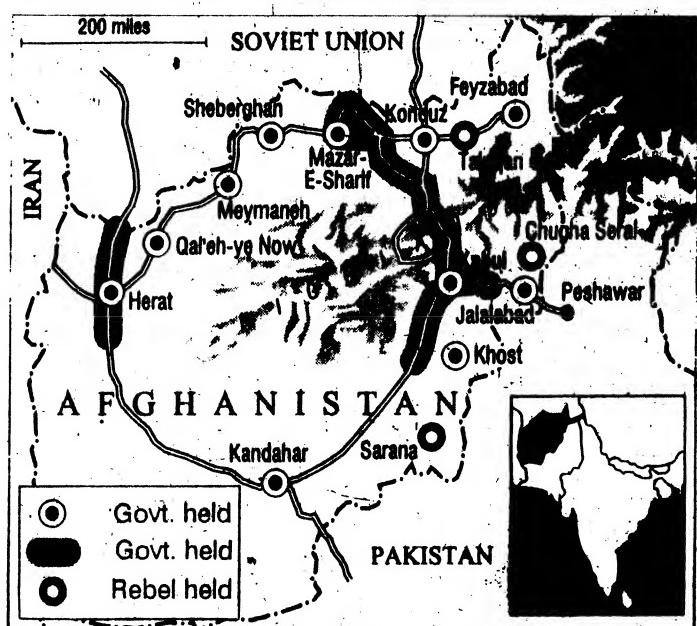
The success in Khost has taken eight long years to come off and if it is made a yardstick of the resistance to measure its might and capacity to undertake future initiatives, their assessment could be exaggerated.

The pipeline for the supply of arms and ammunition from all sources has gone dry and they obviously couldn't depend on the booty from Khost. For future successes finally none of the traditional friends of the resistance favoured a military solution.

Similarly the doves within the Afghan groups too are anxious for a political settlement. An Afghan source said the exact quantity of the hard-ware captured in Khost has not been determined as yet but whatever it is it would be insufficient to meet the another major offensive.

For the last three days the resistance leaders and commanders have been in contact on future operations and sources close to them said that the views were conflicting as the proposition contained many ifs

From MURTAZA MALIK



and but's. They added that the decision was not an easy as they fully realise the consequences of an ill-planned and incomplete offensive. Reports from Kabul said the Najib administration too was preparing for a retaliation. The retaliation at a limited scale has already started around the lost territory.

Meanwhile a media release quoting a minister of the Afghan Interim Government, Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani said, the victory in Khost has proved that a military solution of the Afghanistan problem was impossible. He, however, pointed out the disunity among the resistance which he remarked was chronic one and a source of

concern for all. He emphasised that it should be found out who was responsible for this disunity? Who was right and who was wrong? Who was working for unity and who wanted to be the sole victor? He said that without unity and cooperation the problems of the Afghans could not be solved. Difference of opinion were something natural but there were numerous common points among the Mujahideen organisations which must be sought.

Similarly Gen. Fahim, a commander belonging to Maulawi Haqqani's group, which claimed to be mainly responsible for the success in Khost, has indicated a follow up action in Gardez.

MUSLIM APR 09

Teenaged Afghan POWs who don't want to go back

PESHAWAR—The prisoners went pale when they heard gunshots outside their compound. Tall walls blocked their view and inside they could only see the stony faces of the Mujahideen guards.

The local tribesmen are celebrating a wedding," assured General Abdul Fateh Zahid of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA).

All 306 of them were captured by NIFA from outside Khost last week. Put in a NIFA base camp in NWFT's tribal area, most of these officers and soldiers of the Afghan army don't want to go back, or at least that's what they say.

Mainly teenagers, the soldiers were conscripted from their fields and work places and sent to the front after one month's training in Kabul.

"When it rains, the earth reveals its fertility," driver of a Mujahideen Pajero was playing Afghan singer Ahmad Zahid's cassette on his recorder. A constant drizzle washed the trees around the prisoners' compound and added healthy freshness to miles and miles of green fields surrounding the camp.

Streams running down the nearby mountains added to the beauty of the place.

"And also the absurdity of the situation," commented a photographer. "It is no place to meet prisoners," he said. But it seemed even more absurd when the press party was told that the singer Ahmad Zahid was killed in the war.

The rain suddenly stopped and the prisoners were marched out of their blue tents and filed in two disorderly rows. This was the best they could do for the visitors, journalists and Mujahideen commanders.

There was no glory in this strange guard of honour. Soiled and wrinkled uniforms of the prisoners and their unshaven faces presented a pathetic scene. They

looked restless in their thick woolen jackets and trousers, unsuitable for the fog end of the mild Pakistani winter. A sweaty smell emanating from their uniform hung permanently in the atmosphere.

The interviews began. "Too Az Kuja Hasti (where are you from)?" "Herat," came the reply. His name was Mohammad Tahir. Just 14, he said he was arrested by the "Kabul forces while tending my flock outside Shindand," a place in Herat province.

After one month's training at Kabul he was sent as a gunner to the 6th artillery brigade of the 25th division at Khost. Fed up with loading an M-30, 122 mm gun, he fled to Gardez, capital of Paktia province, captured and

brought back to Khost where he was transferred to the military police. "I preferred this job as the 122 mm shells were very heavy," he said.

Shah Hussain, 15, a Tajik farmer from Badakhshan was also conscripted, trained at Kabul and sent to Khost to join the 6th artillery brigade. He arrived there two days before Khost fell to Mujahideen.

Sher Aqa, 17, of Parwan, Jalaluddin, 17, of Badghis and many others had similar stories. These two were from Garde Khas, a special force raised after the fall of Kunduz to Mujahideen, said General Fateh, himself a former officer of the Afghan army who defected to Mujahideen in the early days of the Afghan war.

Garde Khas, according to him, was trained to retake towns and villages captured by the Mujahideen. They re-captured or liberated, as Kabul said, Kunduz and Maidan Shahar.

They get better salaries, 10 to 15 thousand Afghans compared to 7,000 Afghans of an ordinary soldier.

Ahmadullah, 25, of Sarepol, and Syed Gul Ahmad, 23, of Faryab were different. They looked and talked like professional soldiers. Mujahideen claimed they were from the famous Gilum Jam or the Carpet Snatcher militia.

The name reflects an old Afghan practice of snatching the carpets from a defeated enemy's house to humiliate him. Formed



See back page

From page one

The News

APR 10

by Dostum, a Mujahideen defector to Kabul, the carpet snatchers are feared by their enemies for "ruthlessness and fearless fighting," said General Fateh.

According to Mujahideen there were several thousands of them in Khost but most of them escaped before the city fell to the rebels. They kept insisting that they were from the regular army, not from Gulam Jams, perhaps fearing repercussions. "I don't know who Gulam Jams are and what they do," he said.

His brother, Haji Ghulam, he said was a commander with the Harakat-i-Islami party of the Mujahideen and hoped that he would rescue him before Eid. "I will celebrate Eid with my brother in Peshawar," he said.



High-ranking officials of Kabul regime captured in Khost

MIRANSHAH, April 11: Deputy Defence Minister of the Kabul Regime General Zahir Suh Amal was among the prisoners of war captured by the Afghan Mujahideen during fall of Khost garrison, who faced newsmen at a military base of Commander Jalaluddin Haqqani at Danda in the outskirts of Miranshah, northern Waziristan Agency, reports PPI.

Other regime senior officials include Major-General Mustafa who was Deputy Chief of Political Affairs of the Defence Ministry, Major-General Gul Aqa who headed the 25th division, Major-General Qasim who was Chief of Staff of the Military Brigade of Special Guards in Khost, Honorary General Sherian who was sent to Khost to gain tribal support for the regime personnel in Khost, Brigadier Nisar Ahmed of the 210 unit, Brigadier Ahmed Shah, Deputy of Military Intelligence, Brigadier Kamaluddin who headed the Military Delegation to Khost on March 20 and was the representative of the Military Defence but could not return to Kabul due to Mujahideen incessant attack on Khost, Brigadier Wali Mohammad who was chief of fire brigade, Brigadier Khan, chief of border brigade.

In an interview with newsmen, General Zahir Suh Amal cited the main reason for the fall of Khost garrison as blockade of regimes reinforcements, lack of ammunition and strong cohesive and decisive attacks of Mujahideen.

He disclosed that inclement weather also added to the miseries of the besieged forces of the Kabul regime, as the weather disrupted the aerial supplies to the garrison. The General quoted a number of

other reasons for the fall of the garrison.

Replying to a question regarding the treatment of Mujahideen with the POW's, Gen Zahir said Mujahideen treated them according to the Afghan and Islamic traditions.

When asked as to whether there were any Pakistani fighting alongside Mujahideen against the regime forces in Khost, the General expressed ignorance of any Pakistani trooper.

Similar was the reply of other regime generals and brigadiers who said that they did not spot a single Pakistani soldier with the Mujahideen.

Replying to another question, all the Kabul regime Generals said that they had no prior contacts with Mujahideen. However, they listened to the general amnesty announcements of Mujahideen and thus surrendered before Mujahideen when they were no more able to defend the garrison.

The Deputy Defence Minister of the regime said Khost being the border city of Afghanistan, had strategic importance from military point of view.

All the regime officials parried the questions regarding the actual number of regime forces including Army, special guard, Qeelum Jim Militia and border police, present at the Khost garrison before the fall of the garrison on March 31.

Replying to a question regarding the morale of the regime forces, Gen Zahir said those defeated had no morale at all. He further told a questioner that majority of the Afghans wanted an Islamic government in Afghanistan but failed to explain that why then the Army was fighting against the Mujahideen.—PPI

DAWN APR 12

Scrap business booms again after fall of Khost

Afghan arms merchants anticipating drop in price of Kalashnikovs

From Rahimullah Yusufzai

PESHAWAR—Scrap-dealers and gun-runners are making a beeline to the captured garrison city of Khost in the hope of landing a windfall by buying the metal-scrap and the weapons that may be up for sale.

Together with politicians and journalists, scrap merchants and gun-dealers are the most frequent visitors to Khost these days. But it is difficult for the uninitiated to differentiate as to which one among the gun-toting travellers are enterprising businessmen who deal in scrap and guns.

Scrap business became big business in NWFP and Balochistan during the 12-year Afghan war. A whole new generation of traders began to deal in scrap, many making a fortune in the bargain. Peshawar and several border towns like Miramshah, Sadda, Ghallanay, Landikotal, etc boasted of several big shops and dealers trading in scrap.

The technicians and welders who dismantled tanks, artillery pieces, armoured personnel carriers, aircraft, trucks, etc in earlier battlegrounds like Kunar, Jaji, Alikhel, Zhawar, Jalalabad and Logar are now heading for Khost. Many of them confided that they expected good business in Khost because the war booty which fell into Mujahideen hands was one of the biggest there.

One technician, who happens to be a Pakistani tribesman from North Waziristan Agency, has reached Peshawar to get hold of some air force aeronautical engineers or technicians who could help his Mujahideen friends to expertly dismantle the captured aircraft or try to repair some of them. He told this correspondent Tuesday that they would pay handsome amount of money to anyone who could accomplish this task. He appeared to be in a hurry, explaining that Kabul Regime warplanes were bent on destroying the downed planes at Khost's two

airbases to render them unusable.

Only the severe aerial bombing and firing of Scud missiles on Khost is keeping most of the scrap-dealers and gun-runners away. But word has spread that about 60 downed planes, mostly the Soviet-manufactured Antonov military transport aircraft, had fallen into the hands of Commander Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani's Mujahideen controlling both the old and new airbases. In fact, this metal-scrap would keep the dealers busy for quite sometime.

The gun-runners are also expecting good business in the days to come. Their spirits were a bit damped by reports that the captured weapons would go to the parties instead of individuals. It was, however, clarified later that the heavier weapons would be given to the parties and the smaller would be distributed among the common Mujahideen. Arms merchants are also expecting a drop in prices of Kalashnikov rifles.

Bombing raids on Khost continue

PESHAWAR, April 10: Bombing raids by Kabul regime warplanes still continue against the Mujahideen positions as well as civilian targets in Khost city.

On the adjoining regions of Nadir Shah Kot and Zadran ten Scud missiles were fired, apparently from mobile bases in Kabul city, causing considerable human and material losses.

High altitude Kabul regime bombers have been dropping cluster bombs over the unprotected villages in and around the fallen city of Khost, says Al-Bunyan news service quoting an eye-witness who arrived in Peshawar last night from Khost.

Meanwhile in an interview, Commander Haqqani has said that the capture of Khost city by the combined forces of Afghan resistance may help to effectively cut off underground links between Kabul regime authorities and some pro-Kabul Pakistani tribesmen, along the borders.—PPI.

News APR 10
Live

Fall of Khost to pave way for Kabul's liberation

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—Jamaat-e-Islami Chief Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad has opined that the fall of Khost could be a harbinger of the liberation of Kabul as it had nullified the imperialist forces propaganda that the Afghan Jihad has subsided.

Addressing the workers of Hezb-e-Islami Afghanistan at its training camp at Warsak Tuesday, he said the general amnesty declared by the Mujahideen in Khost was reminiscent of 'Fatima Makkha' when the Holy prophet had declared a similar amnesty for his worst enemies.

He maintained that Islam not only had the ability to defeat Communism and Capitalism through reason but also through Jihad. "But we will have to mould our lives in accordance with the teachings of Islam", he added.

Referring to what he called

the conspiracies of American Imperialism, the JI leader claimed, after the Soviet eclipse from the international horizon, the United States wanted to monopolize the whole world and in this way was planning to subjugate the Muslim Ummah.

Lauding the leadership of Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan, the JI Amir said it had always sought inspiration from Quran and had relied only on the God Almighty rather than any super-power.

Meanwhile, the provincial Secretary General of JI professor Mohammad Ibrahim and the Jamaat district Peshawar Chief Shabbir Ahmad Khan have asserted that Islamic resurgent movements were gaining momentum throughout the world. It would find its way for liberation of Afghanistan, Palestine and Kashmir, they hoped. Both were addressing an Iftar party at Ghari Sherdad Peshawar Tuesday.

DAWN APR 11

MUJAHIDEEN ATTACK A REGIME'S SUPPLY CONVOY IN SAMANGAN,
DESTROY 13 MILITARY VEHICLES AND KILL 13 MILITIAMEN

The Mujahideen attacked a Kabul puppet regime's supply convoy in Tashqurghan-Mazari Sharif highway, on April 1st. The supply convoy was going from Hairatan to Kabul city. Two tanks and seven military vehicles were set ablaze and 13 soldiers and militiamen were killed. Three military vehicles loaded with food stuff were also captured by the Mujahideen. Commander Shir Ahmad reported to MIDIA through a wireless message.

Two Mujahids were martyred and two others sustained injuries during the attack, the report added. (M I D I A)

MUJAHIDEEN ATTACK KHAWAJA RAWASH AIRPORT WITH ARTILLERY,
INFILCT DAMAGES TO ITS TERMINAL AND DESTROY TWO TRUCKS

The Mujahideen staged an artillery attack on Khawaja Rawash airport of Kabul, on April 2. As a result, the Khawaja Rawash airport's terminal was partly damaged and two military vehicles loaded with logistic materials were burned. A Mujahideen source reported to MIDIA here in Peshawar.

According to a separate report by the same source, the Mujahideen launched an operation against the communist regime forces in Sorobay district of Kabul province, killing nine soldiers and injuring five, on April 1st.

APR 0 |

Captured general says Khost fell due to lack of shells, food

A Kabul regime brigadier Atta Mohammad Khan who was captured at Khost by mujahideen has disclosed that Russian military advisers were still supervising institutions of strategic importance in Kabul, reports Afghan News Agency (ANA).

In an interview with "Radio Sada-e-Afghanistan" on Monday he said that Russian military advisers were present at all the strategic installations in Kabul. He, however, expressed ignorance about the exact number of Russian military advisers present in Kabul.

Another regime general Abdul Halim who was the commander of guard-e-khas in Khost disclosed that he was sent to Khost on March 20 by the regime to defend the garrison against mujahideen attacks. He said that they defended the garrison for ten consecutive days but could not stand before the unified and cohesive attacks of mujahideen. He told that a large number of regime officers and officials were killed by mujahideen in attacks as a result of which a number of

others had to surrender before them. He cited the fall of the Khost garrison due to lack of heavy artillery shells and food stuffs for the encircled troops.

They told that during the siege of the garrison by mujahideen the aircrafts were missing the targets of assault as a result of which mujahideen kept continuous advancements towards the city and their reinforcement was cut off.

They further disclosed that the capture of the new and old military basis by mujahideen was a surprise for them. The regime forces mostly surrendered to mujahideen at these airports and thus their defence line was broken, they added.

Commenting over the treatment mujahideen, they said that they were behaved well and mujahideen's treatment was very brotherly and Islamic.

The regime officials revealed that the commanding officers in Khost were unable to devise strong military strategy and were tired of continuous fighting with mujahideen.

deen and ultimately surrendered before them. "We were also listening to the general amnesty announcements of mujahideen and thus availed the opportunity to surrender before commander Sher Khan," they continued.

Replying to a question the regime officials disclosed that army was no more willing to fight against their own nation and shed the national blood any more.

ana adds that Kabul regime fired three other scud missiles on the captured garrison of Khost last night.

Both the scuds crashed at the military airbase of Khost. No loss of life or material was reported. The captured garrison is under continuous attack of scud missiles since it fell to mujahideen on March 31. Sporadic bombings by Kabul regime jet bombers is also reported.

Meanwhile, eight soldiers of the Kabul regime fled from Gardez, the capital of Paktia province and joined mujahideen at the Zurmal district of Paktia adda ANA.

Soviet adviser still helping Kabul troops

PESHAWAR, April 9: A Kabul regime Brigadier Atta Mohammad Khan, who was captured at Khost by Mujahideen, has disclosed that Russian military advisers were still supervising installations of strategic importance in Kabul, reports Afghan news agency.

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Commenting on the treatment of Mujahideen, they said that they were treated well.

Meanwhile Afghan news agency has reported that the Kabul regime fired three Scud

missiles on the captured garrison of Khost last night. The Scuds crashed at the military airbase of Khost. No loss of life or material was reported.

The captured garrison is under continuous attack of Scud missiles since it fell to Mujahideen on March 31. Sporadic bombings by Kabul regime jet bombers is also reported.

Meanwhile, eight soldiers of the Kabul regime fled from Gardez, the capital of Paktia province and joined Mujahideen at the Zurmal district of Paktia.

Midia report said, Mujahideen launched missiles attacks on Kabul Khwaja Rawash Airbase and Qarqa division headquarter on April 4. It claimed that the attack caused considerable losses.—ANA/MIDIA

Former Afghan Dy PM arrested

MONITORING REPORT

APRIL 11: The former Deputy Prime Minister of Afghanistan Assadullah Sarwari is under arrest in India. He has been charged with staying in India without legal documents.

According to the Times of India, Assadullah Sarwari was arrested at New Delhi airport on June 11, last year when he was about to leave for Afghanistan.

Assadullah Sarwari has called his arrest as illegal, and has accused President Najibullah of preventing him from returning to his country in collaboration with Indian authorities.

Watani leader makes it to Kabul from Khost

Nazar Mohammad escaped with the help of friendly Afghan tribes

From Rahimullah Nasrullah

PESHAWAR—Pakistani tribesmen who have returned home from Kabul for Eid reported that a senior ruling Watan Party leader Dr. Nazar Mohammad—sent to Khost a few days before its fall—had now safely reached

Afghanistan's capital. These tribesmen, mostly from the tribal areas, frequently travel to Kabul to oversee their cross-border trade. Several tribal traders have already reached Pak-

istan by taking the Kandahar-Delhi or Kohat-Dubas highways.

The returning tribesmen said

Engineer Nazar Mohammad was accompanied by some colleagues as well as from the besieged garrison city of Khost. Most of them were reported to have safely made it to Kabul.

Engineer Nazar Mohammad,

who hails from Paktia province,

has held ministerial responsibil-

ties in the past. He married the

niece of late Afghan President

Noor Mohammad Taraki. Despite

being a Khalq, Nazar Mohammad

has remained in the good books of

Afghan tribesmen. Several high-

ranking Kabul Regime military of-

ficials based in Khost either

Parchamis presidents like Babrak

Karmal and Dr. Najibullah.

Engineer Nazar Mohammad, who is presently a member of the

Watan party executive committee,

was sent to Khost towards the end

of March as the head of a tugh-

razi civil and military delega-

tion to try and reinforce the city's

defences. Khost, however, fell to

the mujahideen on March 31.

Most members of this delegation

are believed to have fled to

Garder with help from friendly

tribesmen. Several high-

ranking Kabul Regime military of-

ficials based in Khost either

surrendered to the mujahideen or

were nabbed.

Pakistani tribal traders arriving

from Kabul had also seen Deputy

Defence Minister Gen. Nabi Aze-

em on Kabul Television a few days

ago. Some Afghani leaders, es-

specially Hezb-i-Islami chief Gul-

buddin Hikmatyar, had recently

claimed that Gen. Azeem had led

a failed coup attempt against Dr.

Najibullah. It was, however, under-

stood that Gen. Azeem was pri-

vately reprimanded by the

government for his Ministry's

slackness in supplying Khost,

Mujahideen sources, in an

exclusive interview, told on the

conditions of anonymity that on

Wednesday, that the governor of

Khost, General Ahmad Ali, had

been captured by Hezb-i-Islami

Afghanistan (Hakmatyar).

Vice president of the puppet

Kabul regime, General Nazar

Mohammad who is amongst the

missing top brass generals at Khost,

is also believed to be in custody of

HIA (Tekmariyār).

However, the party is tight lip-

ped about the reports during the

conquer of Khost garrison on

Khost governor in Hezb custody
MIRANSHAHI (PPL) — The governor of Khost who was also the general commander of the garrison, a border city of Afghanistan in the eastern Paktia province recently upgraded to the level of separate province, is reportedly in the custody of Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan mujahideen.

Mujahideen sources, in an exclusive interview, told on the conditions of anonymity that on Wednesday, that the governor of Khost, General Ahmad Ali, had been captured by Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (Hakmatyar). Badruddin Hikmatyar had recently claimed that Gen. Azeem had led a failed coup attempt against Dr. Najibullah. It was, however, understood that Gen. Azeem was privately reprimanded by the government for his Ministry's slackness in supplying Khost, which eventually led to its fall. March 31

APR 14

FRONTIER POST APR 12

Kabul contacts Pak politicians for peace in Afghanistan

From MOHAMMAD ISMAIL

ISLAMABAD — The Afghan government has welcomed Islamabad's initiative of sending envoys to a number of countries in search of peace for Afghanistan.

Afghan charge d'affaires Qudratullah Ahmadi told *The Frontier Post* in an interview on Saturday that his government was ready to meet any leader from any part of the world for achieving political settlement to the conflict.

He said Afghan government wanted friendly relations with Pakistan. "Afghan people as well as most of Pakistanis were fed-up with the longest disturbance which had resulted in fratricidal killings. We have appealed to certain individuals in Pakistan, such as former prime minister, Mohammad Khan Junejo, ANP leader Khan Abdul Wali Khan, PMAP chief Mehmud Khan Achakzai and other Pakistani leaders to use their good offices for bringing peace in the region.

The entire world has given up the policy of confrontation and opted for co-operation to settle mutual disputes. Therefore it is in the best interest of our people that we should establish friendly relations," he argued. He said the Kabul government always preferred political settlement of the conflict in Afghanistan and added now it was up to Pakistan to stop

bloodshed. "The war is now being fought on the border of Pakistan, therefore, Pakistani leaders should realise dangers of the war," he added.

Ahmadi said, he had recently visited Pakistan's foreign office and handed over President Najib's proposals for improvement of relations between Kabul and Islamabad. His government was ready for talks with Pakistan and other countries for return of normalcy in Afghanistan, he maintained.

He said, his government was ready to change its policy for solving years-long problem through peaceful means. "To achieve the goal of peace we offer hand of friendship to Pakistan and all other countries," he added.

About the fall of Khost he said, "the so-called mujahideen took over the control of Khost on the foreign powers' shoulders. They looted private and government property and killed innocent people." Later they took stolen articles to Peshawar, he alleged. Quoting BBC he alleged Haqqani himself had killed 50 persons. After killing their innocent countrymen, how could they claim that they were political people, he questioned.

Ahmadi said, his government had offered 35 proposals during the past four years" for national reconciliation, but it was unfortunate that mujahideen did not

accept any one of them. "We also offered holding of elections under United Nations auspices and even under the supervision of neighbouring countries such as Pakistan, Iran and Soviet Union, but they did not respond positively. If the mujahideen really enjoy the confidence of majority why they did not accept polls under U.N. auspices," he questioned.

When asked about any role of ex-monarch Mohammad Zahir Shah, he said Zahir Shah and mujahideen leaders, could contest elections and after winning the polls can rule the country. But unfortunately mujahideen had chosen the way of bloodshed instead of elections and political settlement, he lamented.

He was of the view that mujahideen were incapable of capturing even a small town on their own. "For capturing Khost they did not follow commander Ahmad Shah Massoud but they came to Khost on the shoulders of Pakistani military," he alleged.

Destruction of their own country should not be called a victory, he said and added, according to international media reports the groups of Hekmatyar and Haqqani were now fighting against each other. After fall of Khost they were unable to face Afghan people because they killed and looted innocent Afghans, he opined.

Najib warns Pakistan

KARACHI, April 14: President Najibullah of Afghanistan has warned Pakistan against continuous intervention in the internal affairs of his country and has asked for better treatment with prisoners of war.

Dr Najibullah called on the United States to prevent Pakistani interference in Afghanistan. He said his country had abided by the Geneva accords signed three years ago. But he accused Pakistan of military involvement in the recent fall of Khost town to Mujahideen.

In an interview with BBC in Kabul, President Najibullah dismissed suggestions that the fall of Khost would hasten a political settlement of Afghanistan and said it had created new reasons to intensify the war.

The Afghan President also

rejected the claim that Khost was in Mujahideen's hands and said people in the town have fled their homes. He said anti-government fighters would not be allowed to set up interim government or bases there.

Dr Najibullah said that main reason for the defeat of Kabul government troops in Khost was Pakistan's military involvement in the fighting. He however, declined to say as to when the new round of fighting for the recapture of Khost would start.

When asked about mutiny by the government forces in Khost operation he confessed that some elements within the government forces might have helped the anti-government forces. He insisted that government troops fought with the rebels bravely.—BBC

**Stop Pakistan,
Najib appeals to
Bush**

By Our Monitoring Desk

Afghan President Najibullah has appealed to United States to press Pakistan not to interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs, reports Moscow Radio.

In his message to President Bush on the third anniversary of Geneva Accord signing, Najibullah has stressed that during previous three years Pakistan violated Geneva Accord 13,000 times.

President Najib said that 4,000 Pakistani troops participated in Khost operation last month.

NAT APR 15

DAW14 APR 15

Kabul jets heavily bomb Nangarhar

PESHAWAR, April 14: The Kabul regime resorted to heavy air bombing of Nangarhar province on Sunday morning.

Reports say that the regime jet fighters pounded Mujahideen positions in south-eastern parts of Jalalabad, including Rodat, Batiot and Ghanikhel.

Commander Shrafat of Zafar brigade told the Afghan News Agency that the purpose of the air strike is to stop Mujahideen's advance towards Jalalabad.

Logar was also bombed. Meanwhile clashes between Mujahideen and Kabul troops continued in different parts of Afghanistan.

According to media some top ranking Afghan figures mysteriously found their way to Kabul after the fall of Khost it said that Gen. Nazar Muhammad, Vice president to Najib, Major General Sayed Muhammad Ali Dara-Noori, Major General Ahmad Khan a commander of Dostom's militia troops, Mirza

Muhammad Alem Hamid, a member of the political bureau of the PDPA; and 20 high ranking party members who were in Khost during the war have all reached Kabul.

According to reports, a number of escapees, including Major General Sayed Muhammad Ali, walked from Khost to Gerdez through mountainous terrain. Other high ranking party members, and some of the Generals were mysteriously taken from Khost to Miranshah, and then to Peshawar, from here they went to Jalalabad and Kabul, media reported.

Media correspondent adds there are conflicting theories about the escape of the generals and party members in Kabul some believed that the Khad agents in Pakistan helped them to escape. Other say that some elements among the Mujahideen paved way in their escape to Kabul.

MUSLIM APR 15

Soviets guiding Kabul forces

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR-The Soviets are guiding the Kabul forces to fire Scud missiles on Mujahideen at Khost, a high-ranking army officer of the Kabul regime who was captured at Khost, told media.

It is reported that 40 Scud missiles had been fired during the defence of Khost garrison against

Mujahideen. The report said that 20 of them were fired from the missile launching pads at Mazair Sharif.

The captured army officer disclosed that the Soviet advisers were assisting Kabul forces in Chinara area near Khawaja Rawash Air Base.

Najib accuses Pakistan of violations

MONITORING REPORT

APRIL 14: Afghan President Najibullah Sunday again accused Pakistan of violating the Geneva accords by supporting guerrillas against his regime, radio Moscow reported.

Speaking on the 3rd anniversary of Geneva Accord the Afghan President said "Pakistan has violated the accord for 1000 times in the last three years by sending Pakistani troops and armed guerrillas in Afghanistan".

He said letters have been sent to the Soviet and American heads of states and U.N. General Secretary in this regards.

Scud attack by Kabul

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR-One person was killed when a Scud missile fired by Kabul troops landed in a village Landi Khana in Landi Kotal, some 30 km from here on Wednesday.

According to details the Kabul Government troops fired many Scuds towards Pakistan on Wednesday, one of which landed at Landi Khana at 4.10 pm. The Scud which exploded with a big bang killed one Nazeem Shah of Senwari tribe on the spot created a big crater.

According to residents of the area the sound of the explosion was heard in a vast area and it created panic.

Huge fire erupts in a fort in Kabul

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—Mujahideen sources in Peshawar claimed a huge fire in the Balahissar Fort in Kabul has engulfed and burnt a huge quantity of Soviet-manufactured arms and ammunition and military equipment.

Quoting their contacts in Kabul the Mujahideen sources said the Armoury which caught fire stored weapons for the armed forces. They claimed the damaged armed forces.

The claimed the damaged arms and military equipment included tanks, trucks, cannon, artillery pieces, rocket-launchers, missiles, machine-guns, Klashnikovs, pistols etc. The sources maintained it was the biggest fire in an ammunition dump in Kabul.

The News
APR 16

Bombings by Kabul forces

NANGARHAR, April 20 As the bombings of the Kabul regime over the innocent citizens in the eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan continued for the third consecutive day on Thursday one civilian was reported dead and ten others injured in Ghani Khel.

Severe bombings was also carried out in the surrounding areas of Zafar Brigade of Mujahideen. However not a single Mujahid suffered any casualty as a result of the bombing.—PPI.

DAWN APR 21

NATION APR 19

NATION APR 15

MUSLIM APR

300 killed as Scuds hit liberated Kunar city

PESHAWAR, April 21: More

than 100 Mujahideen and refu-

gees were killed while around

500 injured when Scud missiles

strammed at the Asadabad

(Chungha Sarai) bazaar in Kunar

province of Afghanistan Satur-

day afternoon. The missiles

were said to be fired from the

central Kabul.

However, according to an

agency report about 300 people

were killed and other 700 in-

jured in the missile attack.

The reports revealed that two

ground-to-ground B-2 type mis-

BUREAU REPORT

Afghanistan in 1989.

Meanwhile more than 100

houses were demolished when a

severe intensity earthquake jolt-

ed the Gandam Gul area in

Kishan district of Badakhshan

province in northern

Afghanistan.

Jalalabad city was apparently

made the target of devastation

by the Kabul regime to stop

Mujahideen offensives on

Jalalabad. This was the first in-

cident when Kunar province

received scud after the with-

drawal of Russian troops from

Bohdur Mufaia com-

mander Hezb-e-Islami appealed

to the voluntary agencies and

the United Nations to despatch

rescue teams to the calamity

stricken areas to recover the dead

and injured and make arrange-

MUSLIM APR 22

300 killed as

Scuds hit Kunar

F.P. Report

BAJAU — A total of 300 people were reportedly killed and 700 were injured as Scuds hit an ammunition dump at Asadabad in Kunar province. The arms and ammunition caught fire resulting in explosions which caused the destruction of 400 shops and houses.

Our reporter in Peshawar adds, according to details, in all four Scuds were fired from Kabul and two of them struck the target playing havoc with the people and buildings. The two other missiles reportedly fell on uninhabited places.

According to the Afghan News Agency the attack was carried out on the evening of April 20 around 6.

The missiles slammed in Asadabad Bazaar killing 70 people while more than 100 were injured. Scores of buildings, including residential and shops were also destroyed.

The Kunar province is being ruled by Amu Maulvi Jamiatullah of Jama'at At-tawhid who came into power after elections about 18 months back.

This was the first missile attack after the liberation of the province. The injured were reportedly evacuated to different hospitals at Bajaur and Peshawar and the rescue was still in progress.

Another report says that the Scuds which hit the central square of the town destroyed almost half the victims were the shopkeepers and the travellers from various provinces who used Asadabad as a transit point. No prominent mujahid commander or leader was reported to be among the victims.

About 50 wounded persons were brought to ICRC, Dawa and Al-Farwari hospitals in Peshawar. The 25 of the remaining injured were hospitalised in Bajaur while some of them are being treated in Asadabad hospitals and clinics.

Sikander Hayat adds from Isla-

mabad, Asadabad, which has been since 1988 when the Soviet troops pulled out from that area, sits on supply route to eastern city of Jalalabad. The entire surround-

ing of Jalalabad have been under Kabul Scud attacks for the last several days.

After their stunning success in capturing Khost, the home of tal was in the control of Rabab many Communist leaders in group, who lost to Wahabists led by Abdurrahman Sayaf.

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Bajaur and Peshawar and the res-

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Jalalabad. The entire surround-

ing of Jalalabad have been under

Kabul Scud attacks for the last

several days.

In the beginning the Kunar capi-

a major Scud attack on Asadabad, a mujahideen-held city in eastern Afghanistan. About 300 people were killed and 700 injured

in the worst attack in the 12-year history of mujahideen resistance movement.—F.P. photo by ZUBAIR MIR.

posed for an attack on Jalalabad, because by the diplomatic observers here as an important tactical move to stem the potential attack on Jalalabad.

The diplomatic observers hold the view that before going to the negotiating table, Kabul would like to speak from "some" position of strength.

A peace initiative proposed by Pakistan in which the secretary-general of the United Nations gets the main role is reportedly under consideration in various world capitals. The renewed fighting in Afghanistan is being taken as the posturing by the belligerents before they reach the negotiating table.

But at the same time it is inter-

esting to note that an important Afghan mujahideen commander, Maulana Ishaquddin Haqqani, who was credited with the capture of Jalalabad. The entire surround-

ing of Jalalabad have been under

Kabul Scud attacks for the last

several days.

In the beginning the Kunar capi-

a major Scud attack on Asadabad, a mujahideen-held city in eastern Afghanistan. About 300 people were killed and 700 injured

in the worst attack in the 12-year history of mujahideen resistance movement.—F.P. photo by ZUBAIR MIR.



US-Saudi plan to form new Afghan alliance

From Shamim Shahid

PESHAWAR--Following serious differences amongst Afghan Mujahideen forces on the recent Gulf crisis, both America and Saudi Arabia are planning to form a new Afghan alliance with a view to assist efforts for finding out a political settlement to the Afghan problem.

A reliable source told *The Nation*, that the proposed alliance would comprise of four major groups of the Afghan Interim Government with Prof. Sibghatullah Mujaddidi as its chief. In this regard, Prof. Mujaddidi has exchanged views with the high Saudi officials during his visit to that country.

The Afghan groups to be made members of the said alliance are: Afghan National Liberation Front of Prof. Mujaddidi, Harakat-i-Inj-

abi Islami of Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Mohammad-c, National Islamic Front of Pir Syed Ahmad Gillani and Hizbi-Islami of Maulvi Mohammad Younas Khalis. All of these groups have backed the Saudi and Pakistani stances on the Gulf crisis.

The Afghan groups remain components earlier of the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahideen (IUAM) and later of the AIG are Hizb-e-Islam of Engineer Gulbadin Hikmatyar, Jamiat-i-Islami of Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani and Ittihad-i-Islami of Prof. Abdur Rab Rasool Sayaf. It seems that all of these groups would be deprived of the new alliance membership as its leaders were against American-led Allied troops attack on Iraq.

Referring to the role of Pakistani authorities in the proposed alliance the source said that the Gulf crisis brought reasonable change in the Pakistani officials attitude towards Afghan Mujahideen leaders.

According to the source, the new alliance would work out a political settlement of the Afghan problem along with military one. The military efforts, he said, were being launched with a view to forte Dr Najib for giving due status to the Afghan Mujahideen leaders in Interim Government.

■ Mujahideen capture border town

400 killed as Scuds blast Kunar capital

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR--At least 400 people were feared killed and hundreds injured when Afghan troops fired three Scud missiles on Asadabad, the capital of Mujahideen-controlled Kunar province, the Mujahideen sources told *The Nation* on Sunday.

According to sources, the missiles were launched from Kabul on Saturday evening. Some 150 shops were destroyed in the attack. Most of the victims were stated to be shopkeepers and people from various provinces who used the capital headquarter as a transit point.

They said the relief operations were continuing until Sunday afternoon. The bodies of many killed had been burnt severely beyond identification.

The sources informed that heavy fire erupted at the capital's main shopping market as missiles hit the area and sky-high flames engulfed the whole surrounding arms shops.

About 50 injured were rushed to Peshawar and admitted in the ICRC, Dawa and Al-Fawazan hospitals while 25 were taken to Bajawar. The rest were given treatment at the local hospitals in Asadabad.

The Kunar province, which borders with District Chitral and Bajaur Agency of Pakistan, was liberated by Mujahideen in the summer of 1988.

This Scud attack by Kabul forces is said to be the major raid since the falling of Kunar province to Mujahideen.

According to Afghan News

Agency (ANA), the Scuds landed at Chaghara Srai, centre of Kunar province at 4:00 PM. The fire and explosion at the arms centre continued till Sunday afternoon.

This was the first Scud attack by the Kabul regime that caused largest-ever destruction, the report said.

Chaghara Srai, renamed by Mujahideen as Asadabad, is the capital of the liberated Kunar province. The large-scale casualties was because of the Mujahideen concentration at Asadabad. Mujahideen were reportedly making preparations here for a 'severe attack' on Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar province.

The Kabul regime forces are continuously pounding Mujahideen positions in the south-eastern parts of Jalalabad since April 16 to deter Mujahideen attack on the city. The dead and injured also included Pakistani passengers travelling from Peshawar to Chitral via Kunar, he said.

According to another report, the Mujahideen have captured the District of Dusharki in the province of Kunar.

Adjacent to Russian border in northern Afghanistan, Dusharki had been a District of great importance for Kabul. The capturing of Dusharki follows the fall of Khost Garrison to Mujahideen.

Commander Engineer Bashir said several high officials of Kabul regime were killed during the fight for Dusharki. The killed included KHAD regional Director Khan Mohammad and Administrative Affairs Deputy Director.

NATION APR 22

'Fall of Khost has tarnished Kabul's claims'

ISLAMABAD (PPI) — The International Bureau for Afghanistan has held a week-long conference here recently. The aim of which was to know the impact of the Gulf war on the Afghan issue besides assessing the political and military situation prevailing in Afghanistan. A prominent Afghan intellectual, Said Naeem Majrooh, had also participated in the conference.

Majrooh said it was agreed during the conference that the fall of Khost to the Afghan mujahideen had enhanced their prestige and tarnished the image of the Kabul regime. It had proved wrong the claim of Kabul regime that the mujahideen could not defeat it in the battle field. He added that victory of the Mujahideen in Khost proved that they were capable of toppling Kabul regime with the use of force. He said the mujahideen should launch attacks on military installations of Kabul regime in other cities but prior to their attacks they should make arrangements

for the safety of civilian people and their property. He went on to say that houses and shops were looted in Khost city, although, people were not killed after the mujahideen captured the city. He said people of Khost sought refuge in other places.

He further said the mujahideen should continue exerting military pressure on Kabul regime in order to pave way for a political solution to the crisis and if no military pressure was exerted, a political solution was not possible. He said a single leadership acceptable to both the mujahideen and Afghan people was necessary as it would replace Kabul regime.

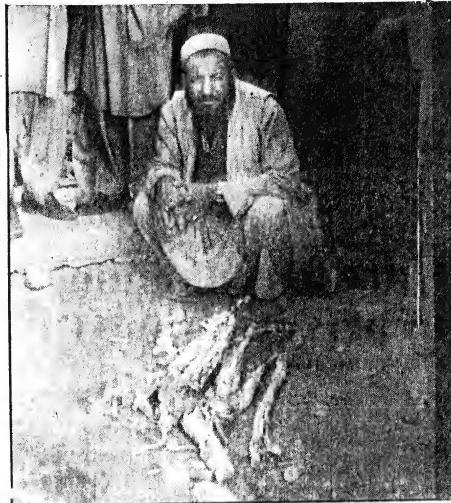
He said "we should try to get out of the present deadlock". Majrooh said and added "it is discussed during the Paris conference that the Afghan refugees should go to the areas under the control of the mujahideen". He said "steps should be taken so that the Afghan people may not seek refuge in other areas in

future.

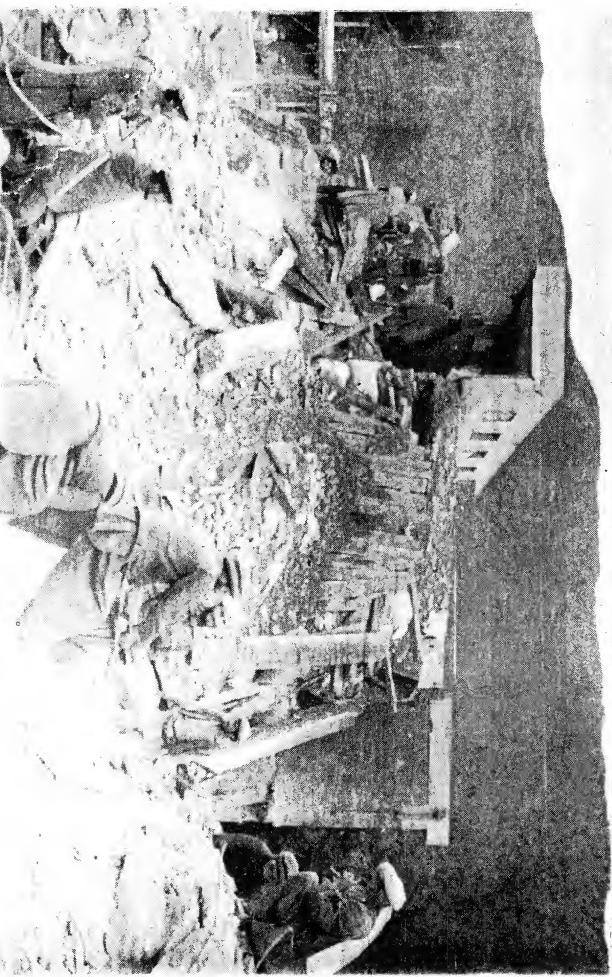
Majrooh said it was agreed in the Paris Conference that the international community should send relief goods for the Afghan refugees inside Afghanistan.

Now the refugees should go inside Afghanistan and the international community would send its assistance to them to Khost. He said the fall of Khost to the mujahideen would help in talks with the Soviet Union in order to seek a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem. He said the Soviet Union should understand that the mujahideen were capable of capturing more cities and topple Kabul regime.

Majrooh said when the Gulf war started, the international community gave less importance to the Afghan problem. He said the mujahideen and refugees should not depend on foreign assistance for ever, rather ways and means be explored so that they could stand on their own feet.



An Afghani arms seller displays on Monday what is left of his weapons which were destroyed in a Scud attack by the Kabul government, according to the resistance. Millions of dollars worth of weapons and ammunition were destroyed in the attack which also left approximately 1,000 people dead or wounded.—AFP photo



AFGHANISTAN: Afghans dig through the debris of destroyed buildings for the bodies of victims killed in the Afghan Government's worst Soud attack on a rebel held city. AFP

NATION APR 23

Afghan ex-Dy Premier jailed in India

NEW DELHI- Former Afghan Deputy Premier Asadullah Sarwari was on Monday sentenced to jail by a New Delhi court for residing in India without valid documents.

The court will reveal the exact prison term in one week. The former Deputy Premier claims his papers were stolen at Bombay Airport, and said although he was innocent, he had been in hiding in the home of an Afghan ex-diplomat in New Delhi. He called it a part of a plot by the Afghan Government against him.

Sarwari came to India six weeks before a thwarted coup attempt in March 1990 against Afghan President Mohammed Najibullah. He was arrested at New Delhi's Airport last June. Sarwari faces the death penalty in Afghanistan where he is wanted in connection with the coup attempt.—DPA

NATION APR 24

Afghanistan's ex-Dy PM jailed in India

NEW DELHI, April 23: Afghan Deputy Premier Asadullah Sarwari was Monday sentenced to jail by a new Delhi court for residing in India without valid documents.

The court will reveal the exact prison term in one week.

The former Deputy Premier claims his papers were stolen at Bombay airport, and said although he was innocent, he had been in hiding in the home of an Afghan ex-diplomat in New Delhi. He called the trial part of a plot by the Afghan government against him.

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MUST APR 24

US objects to Scud missiles supply to Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, April 23: The United States raised objections to the continued supply of Scud missiles to the Afghan government forces, the state department said Monday.

Spokesman, Richard Boucher, did not say how the issue was raised, but officials said US Secretary of State James Baker, travelling in the Middle East, placed a call Monday to his Soviet counterpart, Alexander Bessmyrtnikh.

Richard Boucher said the United States was not suggesting that Soviet technicians had fired the missiles, but he said the Soviets, as the principal military supplier to the Afghan government forces, bore responsibility for the presence in Afghanistan of a weapon whose use is mainly to terrorise civilian populations.—DPA

Kabul denies Scud attack

MINOTORING REPORT

APRIL 23: The Afghan government has denied that it fired Scud missiles at the Mujahideen held town of Asadabad on Saturday resulting in hundreds of deaths, reports BBC.

The official news agency said a fierce clash between two rival Mujahideen factions caused the explosion.

The agency said Mujahideen missiles hit fuel and ammunition dumps belonging to another group. It said rescue workers are still searching for bodies and fighting fire.

MUSLIM APR 24

Najib accuses Pakistan of interference

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR, April 23: Dr. Najib Ullah, president of the Russian-puppet government in Kabul has accused Pakistan of interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and said that the Mujahideen captured the Khost garrison with the help of Pakistan army.

He said in a message which was read out by Peshawar-based Afghan consul in Bacha Khan Peace Conference.

Najib, in his message observed that despite the Kabul government efforts to end the bloodshed and maintain peace in Afghanistan, Pakistani government instead of halting such efforts was interfering in their internal affairs and this was extending the war.

He added that Pakistani help and aid to Mujahideen against the Kabul regime was an open violation of the Geneva Accord.

He claimed that they wanted to create friendship relations with Pakistan government and hoped that it would give up its anti-Kabul policies.

Paying homage to Bacha Khan he said that "peace" and "Bacha Khan" were closely related with each other as the latter was one of the freedom fighters who fought against the British rulers and hosted the flag of peace.

Khost clears way for progress

THE Afghan Mujahideen have scored a remarkable triumph in Khost. It couldn't have come at a more meaningful moment. Even if it is still unclear what the military implications of this event might be, it is obvious that the event puts Afghanistan once again in the focus of world attention. Once again international observers are reminded that the 11-year-old war is very much on and needs to be attended to. If for the Afghan Mujahideen it is a shot in the arm, for the regime in Kabul, too, it provides a jolt. In short, the Afghan issue is back to life.

The Gulf War had overshadowed the Afghan problem, quite as it had so many other burning issues. The East-West detente too had tended to undermine the urgency of this problem, although it should have helped to resolve it. However, the revival of the Afghan question should be put to the best advantage possible. For the Mujahideen it should be the needed spur to close their ranks and think of their future in rational and practicable terms. A working unity of purpose is top priority. The regime in Kabul also have some lessons to learn, foremost being that it cannot go on playing the lord of all it surveys. Its credentials remain far from credible. And it's time the Najib regime realised that the big Russian bear is no longer willing or able to back its irrational intransigence. Kabul must climb down from its arrogance to the *terra firma* and see the facts on the ground as they really are.

In Islamabad the mood appears to be favourable to a realistic and pragmatic way to the solution of the Afghan problem. The dichotomy of two years ago has yielded place to clearer thinking which, in turn, contributes to a salutary resilience. But the ultimate objective most probably remains largely unaltered. Pakistan would like to see a truly free, united and non-aligned Muslim Afghanistan. This is a perfectly fair objective. This country nurses a firm desire to be on the best possible terms of friendship and fraternity with the Afghanistan of tomorrow. It can safely be assumed that Afghanistan's western neighbour, Iran, wishes Afghanistan no less well. It is for the future administration in Kabul to seek, and work sincerely to secure, best possible relations with its two immediate Muslim neighbours. Both Pakistan and Iran would like to see Kabul-Moscow equation to be based scrupulously upon the principle of sovereign equality and non-interference in internal matters of Afghanistan. The days when the Soviet giant entertained other ideas about Afghanistan are now part of dead yesterdays and should remain so buried.

By itself the Khost success is at best something to celebrate. If it is to mean anything of material significance, it ought to be followed up by adroit diplomatic moves from Islamabad, Kabul, Tehran and also Moscow. Let us hope we are not going to foul up yet another promising opening towards a fair and abiding solution to this terrible and wholly unnecessary conflict. Just as we believe others have a responsibility to be reasonable in this affair, we too have the same obligations. There is no harm if we take the initiative instead of, as in the past, waiting for signals from centres other than Islamabad itself.

Pooya hails Mujahideen victory

ISLAMABAD, April 2: Agha Murtaza Pooya, Amir Hizbe Je-had, in a statement released here today congratulated the Afghan Mujahideen on their recent victory in Khost and prayed to Allah to bless the souls of Shuhada with eternal peace and the Mujahideen with greater unity, without which military success is rendered futile.

He expressed similar sentiments for the Mujahideen in occupied Kashmir who with their blood and sufferings, are humbling a mighty and barbaric occupation government. He said the Islam-inspired *Intifada*, In-shallah, will be crowned with success and the Mujahideen will exercise their irrevocable right to accede to Pakistan and will not be deceived by treacherous temptation of an 'independent' Kashmir, a shady scheme sponsored by Ziono-US axis with Soviet support. The successes of the Afghan and Kashmiri Mujahideen are immensely important after Saddam's sinister fiasco.

Agha Pooya called the Ulema accord as historic and having greater domestic-international impact than the water accord — supremacy of Shariah and said its early implementation is the sole guarantee of our unity and security.

He criticised the government and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for betraying the principles and partners of the IJI and succumbing to US pressure. This is evident from the feet dragging on Islamisation and PPP-type reticence on supporting Mujahideen in Afghanistan and Kashmir.

He also criticised the revised 'economic priority' parameters of foreign policy as enunciated by the new Secretary General. This is more in line with US prescriptions of giving precedence to economic development over ideology and is a photocopy of PPP manifesto of making Pakistan an 'Asian tiger' at the cost of downgrading ideology, he said.

Agha Pooya called upon the Prime Minister to take courage from the mandate and also respect it by taking practical steps.

He called for an urgent meeting of the IJI to review major domestic and foreign developments and formulate policies to counter Indo-US designs of derailing us from our destiny — a strong, sovereign Islamic Pakistan.—PR

10 missiles hit Kurram Agency

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—In recent days about ten missiles have hit the Mallikhel area in Kurram Agency where pro-Kabul Afghan refugees from the Jaji Maidan garrison took refuge after its fall.

The refugees have blamed Afghan Mujahideen for firing the missiles. The attack did not cause any casualties as the missiles landed in the uninhabited Shunadara area.

The refugees would refuse to live in a camp, due to Mujahideen threats, unless it was set up in the Mashkizo Ghar area.

The refugees from Jaji Maidan claimed that about a dozen of their people died since they reached Pakistan due to a host of diseases and injuries. They also complained of lack of food and medical care.

The News

APR 27

Indian, Kabul diplomats presence condemned

F.P. Report

Mohammad Iqbal, Nazim, Islam Jamiat-e-Tulaba, Peshawar University has condemned the participation of Indian ambassador to Pakistan and the counsellor of Afghan government in the Bacha Khan peace meet in Peshawar.

In a press statement on Tuesday, he said that in such situation while the Jihad in Afghanistan was entering the final phase and the freedom struggle in the Indian held Kashmir was on peak, the organisers of the Bacha Khan peace conference had betrayed the entire nation by inviting the representatives of these two governments in the conference. He said that this act of the organisers was against the government's stand on

the issues of Afghanistan and Kashmir.

He took a strong exception to the speech of the Indian ambassador in the conference and said that the movement and uprising of the Kashmiris could not be suppressed by the use of force. He urged Abdul Wali Khan to adopt that policy which could be beneficial for the nation and the country.

FRONTIER POST

APR 24

Najibullah pledges to stop outside interference

By our correspondent

PESHAWAR—Afghanistan President Dr Najibullah pledged before a gathering of tribal elders from Paktia, Gardez and Khost in Kabul Tuesday to initiate moves to stop outside interference in his country's affairs, Radio Kabul reported Tuesday night.

His speech dealt at length with the Khost battle he alleged that extremist elements sponsored by Pakistan intruded into Khost with a view to turn it into a base for waging war against Afghanistan. He maintained that innocent Afghans were killed in Khost by the attackers.

Dr Najib was quoted as saying

that he and his colleagues had no intention of ruling Afghanistan over the corpses of the Afghans.

He reiterated his commitment to a peaceful solution of the Afghan problem and spoke at length on his government's national reconciliation programme.

Radio Kabul also reported that a big demonstration by armed supporters of the government was staged in Kabul Tuesday in response to Dr Najib's appeal to his countrymen to prepare themselves for the defence of their homeland. The processions included Watan Party members, militiamen, government employees, teachers, men and women, etc.

The News

Pro-Kabul religious leader killed in Khost

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—A pro-Kabul Afghan mullah, who was captured following the fall of Khost, has been executed by the Mujahideen in the border village of Khardand in Paktia province.

Reports from Kurram Agency, which borders Paktia, said mullah Gulajan was awarded capital punishment in presence of a large number Afghan Mujahideen and refugees a couple of days ago.

The execution was carried out at Khardand, on the Pak-Afghan border where the Mujahideen have established some military bases.

Mullah Gulajan often used to speak on the Khost Radio. His broadcasts interpreted the fighting in Afghanistan in a way suited to the Kabul regime. He also used to ridicule the Mujahideen claim of fighting a Jihad.

Eyewitness said the mullah challenged the Mujahideen Ulema to hold a debate with him whether the internecine fighting in Afghanistan between the Afghan Muslims was a Jihad or a civil war. He, in fact, forcefully argued his case before being killed.

Kabul bombs Mujahideen base in Kunar

From Rahimullah Yusufzai

PESHAWAR—Kabul regime bombers have severely bombed a Mujahideen base in Narang in Kunar province Wednesday afternoon, Mujahideen sources said.

Mujahideen sources in Bajwar agency, which borders Kunar, said that six aircraft took part in the bombing raid, which took place at 4 p.m. Earlier, a reconnaissance plane had visited the Narang area. No information was yet available about losses to life and property.

The planes targeted the base of Zabit Shah Mahmud, a mujahideen commander of the Jamaatul Dawa-e-Hadith, which is one of the most powerful groups in Kunar. About 400 Mujahideen were believed to be in the camp at the time of the bombing. Mujahideen sources said that both the base and the civilian population living near it were bombed.

The mujahideen sources said that these civilians were mostly those on friendly terms with the Kabul regime, as long as it controlled Kunar province.

If the bombing reports were true, it would be the first time in more than a year that the Kabul regime planes have bombed Mujahideen-controlled Kunar. Some inaccurate bombing raids on the Nawab bridge on Kunar river near Asababad and in lower Kunar were reported shortly after October 1988, when the government forces had retreated from Kunar.

Meanwhile, a Jamaatul Dawa spokesman, Hayatullah told that the death toll in the Asadabad holocaust could well reach 500 mark, now that the rescue operations had been completed.

Fateha for the victims of the April 20th missile attack was offered in Asadabad Wednesday. But life had not yet returned to normality in the devastated town.

Kabul accuses Pakistan of interference

F.P. Bureau Report

KARACHI — A spokesman of the Afghan foreign affairs ministry has condemned the interference of alleged Pakistani military, militia and other para-military forces in his country's internal affairs.

The spokesman through a broadcast lodged its protest and asked the government of Pakistan that such policy would harm the relations between the two neighbouring countries. He said that on the one hand the Pakistani rulers were pleading for a political settlement of the Afghan issue, while on the other they had been interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

He said the arrest of two Pakistanis, identified as Ishaq Ahmad son of Mushtaq Ahmad and Tabish Siddiqui son of Abdul Wadood, belonging to Rawalpindi, by the Kabul forces in Logar province, was a clear proof of Pakistan's interference in internal affairs of Afghanistan.

He said that both of them in an interview on T.V. had disclosed that the militia, and other para-military forces of Pakistan were engaged in fighting against Afghan forces in Logar province.

They also disclosed their affiliation with Jamaat-i-Islami and had participated in the jihad on the directive of Qazi Hussain Ahmad, chief of the party. They alleged they were trained in 'Al-Fatah' military base under the control of Hekmatyar group.

FRONTIER POST APR 25

Anti-Najib rally in Delhi

NEW DELHI, April 27: Some 400 Afghan refugees shouting "Kabul after Khost" demonstrated here on Saturday against the government of President Najibullah and said their war to oust him from power would continue.

The refugees, who included many women and children, marched from a World War I monument to the Boat Club lawns near Parliament to mark the anniversary of "Russian coup" in Afghanistan, witnesses said.

The demonstrators shouted slogans against both Washington and Moscow, which they said were trying to force the Mujahideen to share power with Mr. Najibullah. The protesters added that they should be allowed to "decide their own destiny."

Ali Khan, representing the Afghan Mujahideen in India, distributed leaflets about the military victory over Kabul government troops in the eastern Afghan garrison town of Khost, which fell to the Mujahideen on March 31. — AFP.

DAWN APR 28

Najib suffers another political setback

Hardliners fleeing Kabul

The Kabul regime is facing another political debacle as a number of hardline party members are fleeing Kabul and seeking political asylum in other countries.

Reliable sources disclosed to the Afghan News Agency that very recently, Hashmat Kainani, ambassador to North Korea and former deputy chief of Khad illegally landed in Canada and had requested for a political asylum from the Canadian government. The Afghan refugees community there have asked the Canadian government to arrest Hashmat Kainani and put him on trial in the International Court of Justice for his crimes against humanity during his service in Khad.

Dastagir Panjheri, minister for public works and leader of the Sitam Milli Party, a coalition partner of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan now renamed as Watan Party has defected to Bulgaria. Panjheri was a veteran socialist.

Those who have fled Kabul also included ex-prime minister and ex-vice president in Najibullah's regime Sultan Ali Kishmand who sought asylum in Australia along with his family. Kishmand reportedly embezzled a handsome money of the regime, part of which he paid to his Soviet son-in-laws for persuading them to allow his two daughters to leave with him

for Australia.

Abdul Karim Meesaq, a hardline communist of the Khalq faction of the PDPA and ex-finance minister in Haftzullah Amin and Noor Mohammad Taraki's period had earlier sought asylum in Germany.

An ex-minister for trade, Mohammad Khan Jalalar is also amongst those who sought political asylum in Canada.

Radio Kabul has announced that Najib has ordered expulsion of Abdul Karim Meesaq, a Khalqi and Hashmat Kainani, who was a Parchami and accused them of treason against the party.

Meanwhile, a reliable source disclosed that a heavy attack of the Kabul regime at the Centre of Bghan province on mujahideen positions was repulsed after six days fierce battle.

The source further disclosed that the regime forces attacked the mujahideen centres in the capital of the province with full force on April 22. After five days fierce battle the mujahideen repulsed the attack, inflicting heavy human and material losses to the regime troops.

A group commander of mujahideen, Lieutenant Nasrullah and two other mujahideen laid down their lives while fighting back the forces of aggressiveness. Fifty-one other mujahideen sustained inju-

ries in the five days fighting.

Heaviest losses were inflicted to the mounting troopers of the Kabul regime but report of exact figures could not be compiled immediately.

Another report divulged that the mujahideen alighted a military truck of the Kabul regime on Kabul highway in the Qila Lal Meer Khan area with heavy artillery fire on April 23. The truck loaded with anti-aircraft guns was destroyed and three persons on board the truck were killed instantly.

Meanwhile, two militiamen defected to the mujahideen of HIA (Hekmatyar) in the Kulshan village of Chakri area of Kabul province after killing their militia commander. They brought with them one PK machine gun and two Kushtikovs.

Resumes duties

Zamir Alam, ALG telecommunication, police has resumed his duties after having completed his 12 weeks training in public administration abroad, says a handout.

Zamir Alam who was selected for the course, in fact, was the only participant from the sub-continent who attended the course in international personnel management at the Royal Institute of Public Administration, London, one of the prestigious institution imparting training in public administration for over a century.

Zamir Alam, after successfully completing his training, was also attached to Metropolitan Police of UK and Police Staff College Bramshill.

FRONTIER POST APR 30

Hekmatyar for immediate, decisive attack on Kabul

PESHAWAR, April 5: Engineer Gulbadin Hekmatyar, Amir of Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan has suggested an immediate and decisive attack on Kabul to end the prolonged war in Afghanistan and establish an Islamic government there.

In an interview from his jihadwali brigade in Khost he called upon all the Mujahideen to prepare themselves for a final onslaught on the enemy. Congratulating the Resistance over the capture of Khost he expressed the hope that this would be the first milestone of Mujahideen's victories that will end with the removal of the Communist installed regime in Kabul. He said the Mujahideen should make most of the captured ammunition in Khost. He observed that the Mujahideen were fully confident of their success because their morale was very high while on the other hand the regime forces had been shattered.

Engineer Hekmatyar said those elements who resisted Mujahideen for the sake of Najibullah's survival should take lesson now as Najib neither cared for them nor for the Afghan nation but killed them for remaining in power. He disclosed that hundreds of tonnes of bombs were showered over the heads of those regime personnel who surrendered before the Mujahideen after the fall of Khost garrison. He said had Najib been sincere with the Afghan army or the nation he (Najib) would not have showered bombs over their heads and destroyed their homes so mercilessly. He questioned as to why those who until yesterday fought for the survival of Najib were made target of indiscriminate bombing.

The HIA leader condemned those trying to name one or the other to be the conqueror of the garrison and added that the conquerors were in fact those who sacrificed their blood and sweat. He said, such elements were showing seeds of discard amongst the ranks of Mujahideen. He clarified that the command of Mujahideen for the capture of the garrison was not in a single hand but instead a

BUREAU REPORT

21-member Shoora supervised the operations. The commanders of this Shoora were fully united, they were the conquerors and were responsible for the law and order, administrative, and military control of the city.

He lashed out at the western media trying to attribute fall of Khost to a particular person and thus creating confusion in the minds of Mujahideen. But Mujahideen, he said, would not fall victim to this calculated propaganda.

He said that now the difficult task before local commanders Shoora was the rehabilitation of the Khost citizens, restoration of peace and harmony in the town and its reconstruction.

The HIA leader said the Mujahideen will use the cap-

tured ammunition against Kabul and would shift all the ammunition captured at Khost around Kabul. He discarded the propaganda that all the strategic places in Khost were in the hands of Hezb-e-Islami and they were not giving any share in the captured ammunition to the other Mujahideen.

Mr. Hekmatyar said, he made it clear to all the commanders of the Shoora that booty captured by HIA was a sacred trust of the whole Afghan nation and whatever decision had earlier reached in this regard would be fully honoured. He said the HIA took the ammunition in its own custody for the reason to keep it safe.

Meanwhile the Kabul troops captured by the Resistance in the Khost operation had reportedly been shifted to different centres.

Mujahideen to capture Kabul this year : Qazi

KARACHI, April 5: Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad has predicted that Mujahideen shall capture Kabul this year, Kashmir issue will be resolved and Muslim masses throughout the world would get united under the leadership of Islamic movements.

He was addressing a big congregation of "Shabe-e-Dua" outside Masjid-e-Khizra in Karachi on Thursday.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad said a wave of re-awakening was sweeping the world and it was no longer an age of humility for the Muslims.

Referring to the fading glory of Russia, he said this country was unmatched in respect of military might only 2 years ago but it began crumbling down soon after its discomfiture in Afghanistan. "Afghan Mujahideen did not accept a direct aid from America and Hezb-e-Islami leader Gulbadin Hekmatyar refused to comply with the desire of former American President

Reagan to meet him when he had gone to Washington to attend UN session," he said.

Regarding his recent visit to Khost, Qazi Hussain Ahmad said there was unique representation of Muslims including those of Karachi, Hyderabad, Multan, Lahore, Peshawar, Kashmir and other parts of our country and they all had rendered sacrifices for the Afghan cause.

He said Khost was the second most sacred city after Kabul for Najib government but they were so appalled by the Mujahideen's attack that they could not destroy a huge dump of arms and ammunition before fleeing from the city.

He said Muslim rulers promoted their personal interest and invited their adversary to save their crown. "Such rulers do not possess potential and capability to lead the Muslims and time was near when Muslims would unite under the umbrella of Islamic movements, he added.—PPI

MUSLIM APR 06



The Amir of JI, Qazi Hussain Ahmed, meets Gulbadin Hekmatyar, chief of HIA and commander Jalaluddin Haqqani at Khost.

Hekmatyar-Haqqani rift impeding Khost admin

ABU, 6. The Afghan Mujahideen, who have now captured the city of Khost intend to set up their own administration there. Two groups of Mujahideen who are engaged in military activities within the city, have issued statements in an attempt to end the differences among Mujahideen. Both Gulbadin Hekmatyar and Jalaluddin Haqqani have asked the Mujahideen to work unitedly, reports BBC.

Six days have passed since Khost was captured but the Mujahideen have not yet been able to set up any administration to run the affairs of the city. Efforts are being made to hold a meeting of the 23-member Shura. But so far the Mujahideen have been busy in collecting the booty or they have been trying to occupy the big

MONITORING REPORT

buildings or military centres. The civilians settled there have so far been going out of the city. Now there is no civilian population in the city, only the Mujahideen are present there. Different organisations have occupied big buildings and military centres etc. Therefore, there is tension among them.

There are two major groups. One is that of Gulbadin Hekmatyar and the other is that of Jalaluddin Haqqani. There is tension between these two groups. A meeting has already been held between Gulbadin Hekmatyar and Jalaluddin Haqqani. The meeting was organized by Qazi Hussain Ahmad, Chief of the Jamiat-i-

Islami in Pakistan. He is trying to find a settlement so that differences may not increase.

The weather there had been bad for the last three or four days. Planes of the Afghan government could not carry out bombardment of the Khost city. But the weather is now clear and the city is being bombed again. Scud missiles are also being fired. It seems that they are bent upon destroying the city. There is no possibility of the Kabul government recapturing it by sending its troops. Besides, the Mujahideen, too, do not have the resources of the required unity to set up an administration for this city of the province. There is no arrangement of schools or hospitals or communications etc. The city is completely deserted.

Hekmatyar calls for offensive on Kabul

Mujahideen commander says Afghan regime unnerved by fall of Khost

From Rahimullah Yusufzai

PESHAWAR—Hezb-e-Islam chief Gulbadin Hekmatyar has said the Mujahideen should pool their resources to attack Kabul instead of trying to capture lesser targets like Gardez, Ghazni and Qatil.

In an interview with The News at his party's Warsak headquarters near Peshawar, he argued that the Kabul Regime had been unnerved by the loss of Khost and was now confronted with a plethora of problems.

"We should exploit this opportunity and strive to oust the Regime by planning one big push towards Kabul," stressed Hekmat-

yar.

The Hezb-e-Islam leader was confident that most Mujahideen groups with active presence around Kabul would join battle once the offensive began.

Highlighting Khost's importance, Hekmatyar pointed out that the leading Waliat figures hailed from Khost and elsewhere in Paktia province. Moreover, Khost was highly-fortified and had withstood numerous Mujahideen onslaughts. He said the Regime amply reinforced Khost both with men and weapons in anticipation of the latest Mujahideen offensive and yet

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The News
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Hekmatyar for interim govt based in Khost

BUREAU REPORT

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PESHAWAR, April 15: The chief of Hezb-i-Islami, Afghanistan, Gulbaddin Hekmatyar has said that his party was ready to hand over the fully intact offices and administrative control of Khost to such an interim government of the Mujahideen which was ready to work inside Afghanistan, provided that it is fully active and brings forth an elected Shoura by completing the earlier initiated election process.

This he said in an interview from inside Afghanistan Monday.

To a question he said that all the offices taken over by Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan during the capture of Khost were fully protected. He proposed that the interim government of Mujahideen should be activated to face the current challenges and move inside Afghanistan so as to turn it into a de facto government.

Hekmatyar declines Soviet invitation

From QAISER BUTT

The chief of Hezb-e-Islami, Gulbaddin Hekmatyar, has declined Soviet invitation to visit Moscow, a reliable source said.

The invitation was extended to Hekmatyar through diplomatic channels last month.

The source said that Gulbaddin Hekmatyar had told the Russians that he would not be able to visit them at this stage. The refusal of Hekmatyar should not be considered a rejection, the source added.

Meanwhile, Pakistan and Iran will discuss the Afghan issue next month, when their top officials meet in Teheran. The secretary-general of foreign office, Akram Zaki, will hold talks with Iranian officials on the Afghan issue keeping in view the latest situation in the region.

Officials of Pakistan, Iran and Turkey will also meet in Teheran to discuss the regional issues, that include the Gulf crisis. Akram Zaki, will attend this meeting as special envoy of the prime minister. The Islamabad decision to send Akram Zaki to Teheran to attend this meeting as the special envoy indicated that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will continue without a foreign minister, even next month.

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Commenting on the earlier announced election formula of the AIG he said that though he had certain objections over this formula now when the same had undergone a long process it should be completed for laying forward a somewhat elected Shoura. He said that all the organisations of the Mujahideen participating in the interim government should take it obligatory upon themselves that they should accept the people's mandate for the future government that comes to power as a result of the elected Shoura, will fully cooperate with the election process for its early completion and show full sincerity with the new government and would not resort to negative propaganda against the same or create hurdles before it.

Engineer Hekmatyar said that in the alternative all the leaders of the political parties should come on a table to decide about the future set-up through mutual

consultations. He proposed that all the Jihad parties should be categorised according to their strength and effectiveness. He further proposed that representation in the newly emerging government should be given under the same formula to all the Jihad parties.

Kabul

Continued from Page 1

it fell.

According to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the ruling party in Kabul was confronted with infighting and differences in the wake of Khost's fall. He felt the chain of events triggered by the loss of Khost would bring the Regime crumbling down. He said the recent coup attempt against Dr Najibullah was a fallout of the Khost debacle.

Hekmatyar took exception to attempts by a section of the mass media to credit one commander or party with the success at Khost. He reminded that a 23 member Shura representing all parties supervised the Khost operation as there was no overall commander giving orders. He explained that his party could claim credit for taking Khost since its Mujahideen were the first to enter the city from its southern and northern sides and was now in control of the most important military and civilian installations there.

And yet, he maintained, the Hezb-e-Islami had assured all parties and commanders of its commitment to abide by all agreements and instructions of the Khost Shura. He said his party wanted all the captured weapons to remain a collective property of the Mujahideen for use in future battles.

The Hezb-e-Islami chief informed that negotiations aimed at securing Khost without fighting failed when the city's defenders refused to surrender before the deadline. He said those who gave themselves up to the Mujahideen during and after the Khost battle were now prisoners of war.

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar felt the Americans wanted to malign and weaken the political leadership of the Afghans in a bid to facilitate the return of ex-king Zahir Shah. He also reiterated his party's opposition to the presence of the US troops in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states and charged the Americans with mistreating and insulting the Iraqis even after the war.

Hekmatyar urges Afghans to get ready for final battle

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR—Gulbaddin Hekmatyar, Hezb-e-Islami chief, has called upon his party men to reach the war fronts to join the final battle against the Kabul regime, reported Afghai News Agency.

In his speech to a Friday congregation in the Shamshato camp near Peshawar, he said the time had come to give the final blow to the tottering regime in Kabul. He claimed the armed forces were no longer willing to fight on behalf of the Najib regime as proved in the battle for Khost. Recently, Hekmatyar disclosed that more than 160 army officers had been arrested by the government during the past four months on charges of plotting a coup against Najib or merely on suspicion. He said the fragility of the Kabul regime was fully exposed. In Khost, "The fall of Khost has opened the gate for capturing Kabul," remarked Hekmatyar.

The News
APR 15

Hekmatyar asks mujahids to go to war fronts

The chief of Hezb-i-Islami, Afghanistan, engineer Gulbadin Hekmatyar has stressed upon his party workers to go to the war fronts inside Afghanistan to give the last blow to the Kabul regime, reports Afghan News Agency.

Addressing a huge Juma congregation at Shamshatu refugees mosque on Friday, he said that the regime was in its last breathing and it was incumbent upon all of them to award the final lash to the puppet regime. He predicted a surprising fall of the Najib regime and advised the party workers to report to the nearest military basis of the party.

He disclosed that the army was no more ready to fight for the survival of the puppet regime and their army was facing great disarray. "Najib has been trying to

purify his forces by making large-scale arrests amongst the high corps of the army but this infact worked adversely", he remarked adding more than 160, high-rank officials of the army had been arrested on the charges of coup attempt.

The HIA Amir said that the Kabul army had seen its dark future and it had become tired of fighting against its own nation for the sack of Najib.

Commenting on the capture of Khost, he said that the success had opened the gate for the capture of Kabul, adding the nation would soon hear good news about the fall of Kabul regime.

He also threw light on the day to day advancements of mujahideen during the Khost fighting. He said that the western media by project-

ting some and ignoring others for the capture of the Khost garrison wanted to create fust in military tanks. "But by the Grace of Allah Almighty we are united and there is no difference among mujahideen", he maintained.

He said that the control of Khost was in the hands of joint Shura of mujahideen and they were making all-out efforts to restore peace and rebuild the captured city.

He extolled the bravery of eminent mujahideen commander Hazrat Mohammad who played a key role in breaking the strong defence of Najib forces in Khost. He disclosed that the mujahideen were working on the establishment of a joint institution that would take the responsibility of the law and order control of the city and its re-construction!

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Hekmatyar vows to avenge Scud attack on Kunar

Engineer Gulbadin Hekmatyar, chief of Hezb-i-Islami, Afghanistan, in a sharp reaction to the Scud attacks on Asadabad, capital of Kunar province, has said that mujahideen will avenge the dastardly act of the Kabul regime, reports Afghan News Agency (ANA).

In an interview in Peshawar on Monday, he expressed heartfelt sorrows and sympathies with the bereaved families and prayed for the departed souls and early recovery of the injured.

He said that two delegations of the executive committee members of his party had left for the Scuds devastated area to help in the relief activities.

Commenting over the attack, Hekmatyar said that the puppet in Kabul has left with no other business but to shower bombs and fire devastating Scuds on the innocent Afghan people. He said, the regime had been frustrated after the capture of Khost and was taking revenge of Khost fall from the civil Scud attacks were continuing since its capture and added that even those people were the target of Najib's oppression who until yesterday fought for him. He said that Najib was doing every thing for continuing his cursed rule in Afghanistan.

Hekmatyar expressed surprise

over the continued support of Moscow to the Kabul government and said that the carnage of the Afghans was continuing with the Russian supplied Scuds.

He said that Khost alone received sixty Scud missiles during three weeks, after its liberation "Moscow wanted survival of the puppet communist regime in Kabul at all costs" he continued.

He observed that with the change in the Eastern Europe and the Gull situation people expected of Moscow's support to the Iraqi people against the American aggression but Moscow played an ultra-vires role. "In view of the internal disturbances of Soviet Union its continued support to a regime which is at the verge of collapse is very amazing," he continued. These conditions, he added, predict that both Moscow and Washington wanted the continuation of Najib's despotic rule. He said that strong reaction was shown over the petty incidents of the world, especially the whole world was moved when Iraq received a few Scud missiles but the world was pathetic over the Kabul regime's Scud attack on civilians as it considered the devestation of Afghan people with destructive weapons a legal right of the puppet regime of Kabul.

Giving his opinion over the Scud

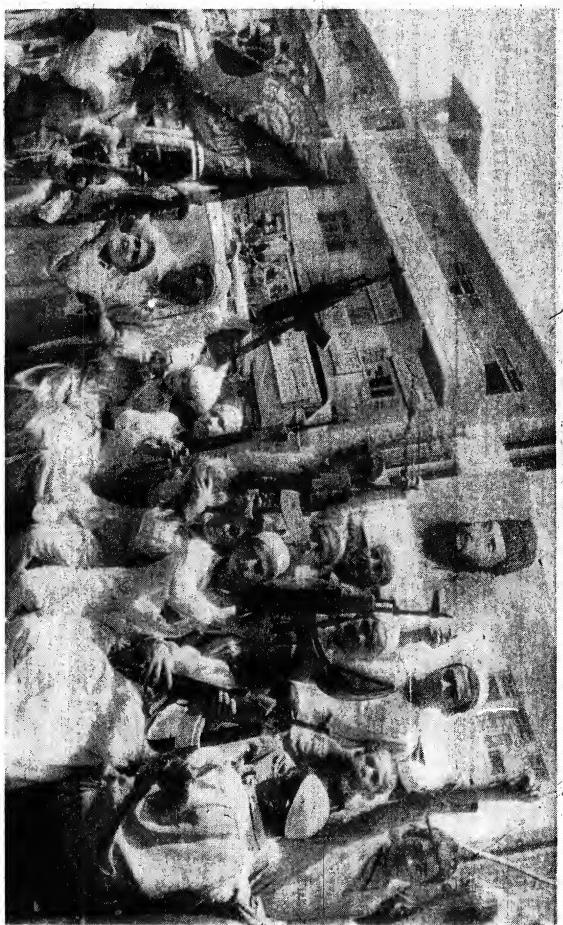
missiles fired in Asadabad, Hekmatyar revealed that Moscow has given a new type of Scud missiles to Kabul. These missiles carried oil fire equal to two thousand litres of petrol fire at the site of crash and it seems that the missiles fired on Asadabad were these new type of Scuds.

He said that the destruction of the innocent refugees will be the result of the different aid agencies and United Nations Organization in sending them back to Afghanistan in continuation of war. He said that those Western agencies who were against the military victory of mujahideen invoked refugees to return to Afghanistan in the worst conditions and they will be responsible for their death and destruction.

Meanwhile, the Afghan interim government, in an official communiqué issued here on Monday, has strongly condemned the Scud attacks on the innocent people of Kunar and asked the United Nations to stop Kabul regime from the inhuman acts and devastation of civilian population.

The AIG also requested all the voluntary international agencies to extend their humanitarian aid and help to the injured and also provide financial assistance to the affected families.

FRONTIER POST APR 23



Afghan children organised a protest rally at Regal Chowk, Karachi on Saturday—Staff Photo

MUSLIM APR 2 9



Soviet made Afghan Antonov transport planes lie destroyed at Khost garrison on April 2, after a fierce 17-day fight between government troops and Mujahideen guerillas.—F.P. photo



An Afghan mujahid, wearing a Kabul army general's cap, standing outside a military base in Khost.—F.P. photo

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CLIPPING

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Prepared by : International Rescue Committee
Language Teacher Training & Translation Services

Address: 43 Sayed Jamaluddin Afghani Road
University Town
Peshawar Pakistan

Phone 43310 - 41560

